

Hafa Adai!

Senate passes its version of FY25 budget. **PAGE 4**

Community urged to take action vs. animal neglect, abandonment. **PAGE 4**

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DYS: 30 infants test positive for meth

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

About 30 infants have tested positive for methamphetamine in the current fiscal year, according to records from the Division of Youth Services.

"One important thing to know is that just for this fiscal year, we have close to 30 infants/newborns that tested positive for meth...that's on our case load so, we go all the way straight to the hospital and we entertain and respond to those cases," said DYS

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RACQUEL FLOYD
Department of Youth Services acting supervisor Mariah Barcinas, second from right, and Center of States trainer Brandy Hudson, left, in Day 3 of DYS' Child Welfare training yesterday at the Kolerville Youth Center.

Bebinca disrupts cargo shipments to Saipan



RACQUEL FLOYD

Shelves at New XO Market shows a shortage of eggs and other food items due to the delay of cargo shipments.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Tropical Depression Bebinca caused the closure of ports in Guam and Saipan

that prevented several ships carrying cargo from the U.S. last week. The delay resulted in a shortage of important food commodities such as

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Chamber hosts 2024 Delegate Debate



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

From left, Edwin K. Propst, Liana Hofschneider, Kimberlyn King-Hinds, Jim Rayphand, and John Bolis Gonzales—candidates in the NMI delegate race—during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Delegate Debate last Tuesday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center in Susupe.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce hosted the 2024 Delegate Debate last Wednesday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

It gave all five candidates running in the U.S. delegate for the NMI race a chance to give members of the community an insight into what they stand for and what they hope to

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Dozens of community members flocked to the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Center to witness the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2024 Delegate Debate last Tuesday.

Judiciary concerned FY25 budget prohibits hiring of judge pro temps

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

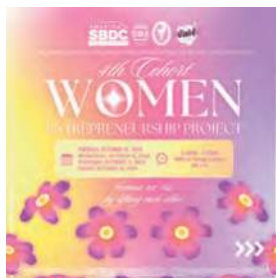
The CNMI Judiciary has written to the Legislature expressing concerns about a section on the House Budget Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2025 that prohibits the Judiciary

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Castro

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network at the Northern Marianas College and the CNMI Women's Association are pleased to announce the open registration period of cohort four of the Women Entrepreneurship Project.

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WORLD

Pagers used by hundreds of members of the militant group Hezbollah exploded near-simultaneously Tuesday in Lebanon and Syria, killing at least nine people, including an 8-year-old girl, and wounding several thousand, officials said.

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LIFE & STYLE

Movie origin stories finally reach their nadir this week with "Transformers One," the super-violent, toy-selling vehicle that tells the tale of how Optimus Prime and Megatron went from besties to foes.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

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EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

MTEC, MVA, MYWAVE meet on school year plans

To kick off another school year of engaging students, the Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority held its annual meeting with school MYWAVE, or Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically, club advisors last Friday, Sept. 13, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"We recognize the importance of the MYWAVE Club Advisors, who provide leader-



Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente, seated center, leads an MTEC orientation for school MYWAVE club advisors on Sept. 13, 2024, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Also pictured are other MTEC directors, Marianas Visitors Authority staff, and school MYWAVE Club advisors.

ship and support for the students who are interested in learning about the hospitality industry," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "And we are grateful for their continued commitment to helping the kids stay informed of our islands' primary economic source."

MTEC is a non-profit organization formed in 2002 that aims to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of tourism to the well-being of the people of the Marianas.

"I value my community efforts to promote tourism and protect our cultural heritages that we can share across the nations (and) with other regions," said one advisor at the meeting.

This year, MTEC and MVA will continue their school presentations to 4th, 7th, and 10th graders at public schools. The MYWAVE Tourism Summit—which last school year engaged MYWAVE Clubs with the theme "Green Spaces, Memorable Places" through an educational tour of Marpi—is scheduled for January 2025. Also shared were opportunities for MYWAVE Clubs to aid age-appropriate destination enhancement projects of the MVA, opportunities for advisors to earn a stipend for out-of-pocket costs in conducting club activities, and details on the MTEC Scholarship program for graduating seniors. Advisors also shared ideas with each other on club activities to support and engage with tourism.

"I'm here because I would like to help my students explore the industry and know how they can be a positive

part of the community," added another advisor.

Participating schools were Tinian Middle & High School, Kagman Elementary, Francisco M. Sablan Elementary, Dandan Middle School, Tanapag Middle School, William S. Reyes Elementary, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Koberville Elementary, Oleai Elementary, Hopwood Middle School, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, San Vicente Elementary, Da'ok Academy, and Garapan Elementary.

MTEC's primary fundraiser, the Marianas Tourism Cup Golf Classic, will be held on Oct. 12, 2024, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. Interested sponsors may contact the MVA Community Projects Division for more information.

MTEC's stated mission is three-fold—to foster community understanding and support of the visitor industry; to educate the general public, especially school students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and to instill, improve, and promote the "Hafa Adai-Tirow" hospitality spirit throughout the island community.

In addition to Benavente, MTEC board members include vice chair Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort), secretary Martin Duenas (MVA), treasurer Larissa Larson, Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Gordon

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (Saipan, MP)

Develops logistics strategies and recommends changes to processes to keep programs ahead of schedule. Must have Bachelor's degree in Business, Supply Chain Management, Accounting or equivalent plus two years of experience as Supply Management Specialist, Logistics Service Manager, Transportation and Warehouse Supervisor, Documentation Officer or Assistant, or any suitable combination of education, training, or experience is acceptable.

Mail resume to Consolidated Transportation Services, Inc., CTSI Building, Santa Remedio, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950. Attn: Joven Cruz, GM

DURING AANAPISI WEEK 2024

Deleon Guerrero to speak on nat'l leadership panel

As part of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Week, Northern Marianas College President Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero will be a featured speaker during an online forum entitled, "AANAPISIs: Empowering Generations of AA & NHPI Students," hosted by the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education.

This virtual panel, held during AANAPISI Week 2024, will feature insights from nationally recognized higher education leaders on how AANAPISIs serve, educate, and prepare the next generation of Asian Ameri-

can, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students to become changemakers in their communities. Panelists will also discuss the challenges facing AANAPISI programs and offer policy recommendations for their continued success.

In addition to Deleon Guerrero, panelists will include Dr. Martha Garcia, president of Mt. San Antonio College, and Dr. Ame Lambert, vice president for Global Diversity and Inclusion at Portland State University. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Timothy Fong, executive director of the Asian American Native

Hawaiian Pacific Islander Student Achievement Program at California State University.

AANAPISI Week celebrates the establishment of AANAPISIs, a minority-serving institution designation created by Congress on Sept. 27, 2007, to improve access to quality postsecondary education for low-income, first-generation AA & NHPI students. The week highlights the critical role AANAPISIs play in supporting the academic success and future opportunities of underserved students.

Join NMC President Dr. Deleon Guerrero and APAHE virtually on Wednesday, Sept.

25, 2024, from 7am to 8am local time. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4dMn130>. (PR)



NMC Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero addresses 2024 graduates of the community college in this file photo.

DPS schedules car seat check and OP/CR check points

The CNMI Department of Public Safety would like to inform the public that DPS will be conducting Occupant Protection/Child Restraint (OP/CR) check points today, Sept. 19, 2024.

The first checkpoint will be along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Chalan Kiya, from

8am to 10am.

The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan, to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Chalan Kiya from 4:45pm to 6pm.

The third checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Martinez, Koblerville, to Chalan

Monsignor Martinez, As Lito from 7:30pm to 8:4pm.

Each checkpoint will be 75 minutes on every site. The purpose of these scheduled checkpoints are to detect, deter, and identify improper use of seat belts and/or Child Car Seat in the highway. (PR)

MTEC

From page 2

Marciano (Pacific Develop-

ment, Inc.), Dr. Yunzi Zhang (Northern Marianas College) and Catherine Perry (Integrity Communications).

Schools interested in start-

ing a MYWAVE Club may contact the MVA Community Projects Division at communityprojects@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3200/1. (PR)

Journey to the Hill at AMP today

Soroptimist International of the Northern Mariana Islands is hosting its fourth bi-annual "Journey to the Hill" Forum, which will showcase all of the female candidates seeking election to the House of Representatives and Senate in the 2024 general elections.

This is not a political forum. It is a forum for the female candidates to tell the public about themselves, who were their mentors growing up, what made them decide to want to be a public servant, etc.

The event this year will be held at the American Memorial Park Theater, starting at

5pm today, Sept. 19, 2024.

The event is free to the public. Please join Soroptimist International for a glass of wine and a chance to learn more about the amazing women who are seeking public office. Remember that women had to fight hard decades ago to even have the right to vote, much less run for public office. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive DirectorINVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-025

S-11 & S-12 SEWER LIFT STATION RELOCATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the relocation of the existing S-11 & S-12 sewer lift station; relocation of wet well; relocation of valve and flow meter stations; installation of new pumps and accessories; and renovation of the existing generator building. The work shall be done in accordance with the project plans and specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in three hundred sixty-five (365) calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-24-025, S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 1, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided bid forms. Bidders are required to complete all bid forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A bid guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (CHST) on September 10, 2024 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer, at email alley.reyes@cucgov.org, and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician Senior via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive DirectorREQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-033
WAREHOUSE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of warehouse space for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed warehouse space must comply with DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulations.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set followed by completion of registration with the CUC Procurement & Supply.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-24-033, Warehouse Space Lease for CUC Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2024**. Proposals mailed via postal, or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time. Late submissions will not be considered.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements during Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, pay any cost incurred in preparing the proposal under this request, or procure our contract for services.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 17, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Pepe Liwanag, CUC Warehouse Manager, via email at pepe.liwanag@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Senate passes its version of FY25 budget

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate has passed their version of the fiscal year 2025 budget with a few floor amendments on top of the committee amendments proposed previously.

Following an over three-hour Senate regular session yesterday, the full Senate body passed their version of the fiscal 2025 budget; or House Bill 23-115 House Draft 1 House Schedule 1 Senate Schedule 2.

After nearly an hour of discussion, the Senate unanimously voted to pass HB 23-115 HD1 HS1 SS2 past 4pm yesterday.

As part of their discussion, the Senate passed six floor amendments to include the addition of Section 609 to cap salary increases to service-contract employees as well as amendments pertaining to funds collected from the Department of Public Lands to be transferred to the Marianas Public Land Trust.

These amendments are on top of the amendments proposed by the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee last Friday.

Last Friday, the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee met to discuss House Bill 23-115, House Draft 1, House Schedule 1; essentially the House's version of the FY25 budget

proposed by the Office of the Governor last July.

The committee voted in favor of passing the House Bill

with amendments to include two additional amendments specifically to reporting requirements.

According to Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), the proposed amend-

ments to the House Bill are to add additional sections requiring the Department of Finance to report any additional revenue collected that is not detailed in the FY25 budget if it exceeds \$200,000; and to include

language that penalizes government departments who don't comply with budget reporting requirements.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Community urged to take action vs. animal neglect, abandonment

Saipan Humane Society is urging the community to take steps in preventing animal cruelty following several recent cases of extreme neglect. One case involved Gouda, a pitbull mix, who was left behind by an owner who moved off-island. She was found by a Good Samaritan starving and in desperate need of medical attention.

Fortunately, the Saipan Dog Control Program staff were

able to rescue her. Gouda captured the heart of Saipan Humane Society staff, and is now recovering at their clinic. She will soon be available for adoption.

According to Public Law 21-31, abandoning animals is illegal and constitutes animal cruelty. "Cruel neglect" is defined as knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly failing to provide an animal with necessary food, water, or shelter.



The law also requires all pet owners to ensure their animals are protected from adverse weather conditions, such as the heavy rains the island has been experiencing recently.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

SHS

Gouda shows off her smile to photographers at the Saipan Humane Society clinic in Garapan. This girl is recovering and getting healthy, looking for a furever home.

BEBINCA

From page 1

eggs and vegetables in local stores.

According to Clarence Tenorio Jr., head buyer and wholesale manager of JC Tenorio Enterprises, they normally import fresh produce from the U.S. every week.

"We normally use Matson Navigation, they're the ones who ship most of the cargo that comes from the United States and Matson has a weekly service into Saipan via Guam, and normally the arrival is on Thursday. The middle of last week, which made the waters too rough, so both the port of Saipan and port of Guam were closed, which prevented the barge, carrying the Matson cargo from departing Guam until early this week. There was no United States cargo that arrived

on Saipan last week because of the storm," he said.

Other wholesale companies also experienced late arrival of cargo shipments from Guam due to the aforementioned closure of ports on Saipan and Guam because of Bebinca.

Restaurants also were forced to strike out dishes using eggs from their menu because of the shortage.

According to Rica Dela Pena, JTM Snack and Barbecue Grill supervisor, for a week now they weren't able to serve their binalot orders like tapsilog and tocilog due to unavailability of eggs.

Plumeria Steakhouse owner Steve Jang said despite the shortage of eggs, his restaurant wasn't really affected as he stocked up on the item.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

JUDICIARY

From page 1

from using funds to hire judge pro temps.

Last Tuesday, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro wrote to Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) expressing concerns regarding Section 703(e) of the House Budget Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2025—House Bill 23 -115 HD1—as it essentially prohibits the Judiciary from using its funding

to hire judge pro temps.

Judge pro temps are judges appointed to serve temporarily when there is no sitting judge to available to hear a case.

"We write to express serious concerns regarding Section 703(e) of the House Budget Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2025 which prohibits the expenditure of any funds, including those obtained from outside sources, for costs related to judges or justices pro tempore. This prohibition encompasses salaries, travel, lodging, and other necessary expenses," said Castro.

The chief justice ex-

plained that Section 703(e) threatens the impartiality and efficiency of cases in the Commonwealth.

"The Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs has amended this section to allow expenditures relative to any cases being conducted remotely by electronic means. Even with this exception, Section 703(e) threatens the impartiality and efficiency of cases before the courts of the Commonwealth. Section 703(e) directly contradicts Article IV, Section 9 of the Commonwealth Constitution, which grants the chief justice the authority to

designate, as needed, active or former justices or judges from the Commonwealth or certain other jurisdictions to serve as pro tempore justices or judges. This provision is essential to ensuring the continued and efficient operation of the courts, particularly when regular judges are unavailable or have conflicts of interest," he said.

In addition, Castro said this prohibition prevents the Judiciary from exercising its constitutional authority.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

DYS

From page 1

administrator Vivian T. Sablan during the third day of the CNMI Child Welfare onsite training yesterday at the Kolblerville Youth Center.

She said infants who tested positive for meth are a direct result of their mothers' use of the illegal drug.

The National Institutes of Health said methamphetamine use has been linked to a higher chance for preterm delivery (delivery before 37 weeks of pregnancy), poor growth (babies born too small and/or with a small head size), and low birth weight (weighing less than 5 lbs, 8 oz [2,500

grams] at birth).

NIH added that some studies have suggested that methamphetamine use in pregnancy can increase the chance for high blood pressure, placental abruption (the placenta pulls away from the uterus), and for fetal death or infant death. Some studies also show an association between methamphetamine misuse and a higher chance of postpartum mood disorders. Pregnancy complications are more likely to happen when methamphetamine is used throughout the whole pregnancy or when taken at high doses.

Due to this as well as a myriad of other reasons, Sablan said child safety is the top

priority of DYS as the agency handles cases from 0-17 years of age, Sablan emphasized.

For the CNMI Child Welfare onsite training, three trainers from the Center of State—Brandy Hudson, Chanette Stewart, and Ellen Smith—were flown in to Saipan to conduct the five-day training from Sept. 16 to 20.

It's part of the technical assistance funding from the Center for States (Bureau of Child's Welfare) that costs about \$25,000.

The training includes understanding the process of intervening in child abuse cases, learning about conducting home investigations, changing the stigma around child protective services, emphasizing

the role of children in protective services in families, and ensuring child safety.

"What we are trying to do here is to make sure that our staff is also updated with the other trends in the child welfare system, and with that update, we kind of tweak it and tailor it to our own specific needs with the CNMI," said Sablan.

According to Sablan, they have 471 cases in the CNMI as of July 26, 2024, which is higher than the 459 cases they had in 2023. The cases involve 1,191 children on Saipan, 46 on Tinian, and 42 on Rota.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery
(CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-021	CDBG-DR Internal Auditor (1-Position) Re-Announcement	UNGRADED \$50,000.00 to \$65,000.00 Per annum	August 13, 2024	Until Filled

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhc.gov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
ZENIE P. MAFNAS
Corporate Director

CHAMBER

From page 1

achieve should they be elected delegate come Nov. 5.

With the CNMI's general elections just around the corner, campaign season is now in full throttle with members of the community eager to know what their prospective leaders' views, goal, and initiatives are should they be placed in office.

This year's elections is made special with the NMI

having five candidates vying for the delegate seat, a seat that Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP) has kept unopposed for many years, for the first time in a long time.

The candidates running for delegate are Edwin K. Propst, Liana Hofschneider, Kimberlyn King-Hinds, Jim Rayphand, and John Bolis Gonzales, all of whom with unique experiences and achievements, said they are ready and willing to use for the betterment of the NMI should they be elected in this

coming general elections.

For the community to get a better perspective of what these candidates stand for and what they intend to accomplish in office, community groups have initiated forums and debates to highlight them; the most recent being the 2024 Delegate Debate hosted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Dozens of community members flocked to the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center for a first-hand look into what their prospective

delegates' platforms.

During the debate, the five delegates were asked questions regarding healthcare, education, economy, tourism, and military development.

While some differed in opinions, they all expressed that the CNMI's economic standing is critical and they intend to leverage the CNMI to build federal relationships, and to fight for the well-being of the CNMI and the Covenant that gives the Commonwealth the right to govern itself.

GAIN celebrates 35 years with Fur Ball Gala

Guam Animals In Need is thrilled to announce its Inaugural Fur Ball Gala, a spectacular event to celebrate the organization's 35th anniversary. This special evening will take place on Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, from 6pm to 10pm at the Hyatt Grand Ballroom.

The Fur Ball Gala is set to be a night of great entertainment, featuring live music,

fine dining, a silent auction, a display of GAIN's history, and more. Funds raised by this event will be used to establish and grow an educational outreach initiative aimed at improving public awareness of animal welfare. This event not only marks a significant milestone for GAIN but also serves as a heartfelt thank you to the Guam community for

their unwavering support over the past 35 years.

Tickets for the Fur Ball Gala are available for purchase online at <https://tickets.guamtime.net/event/furball>. We encourage everyone to secure their spots early and join us for a memorable evening.

For those interested in sponsoring this landmark event, please reach out to GAIN director Alison Hadley at hadley@guamanimals.org for more information. Sponsorship opportunities offer a unique way to support GAIN's ongoing efforts and gain visibility in

our vibrant community.

"We are beyond excited to host our first Fur Ball Gala," said Hadley. "This event represents not only our 35 years of dedicated service but also the incredible bond we share with the people of Guam who have supported us throughout the years. We can't wait to celebrate this milestone with you all!"

Please contact us for additional details about the event, ticket purchases, and sponsorship opportunities. We look forward to celebrating with you and making this a night to remember! **(PR)**



Guam Animals In Need will hold its Inaugural Fur Ball Gala on Nov. 22, 2024, from 6pm to 10pm at the Hyatt Grand Ballroom.

Training on FAFSA changes conducted for FAS financial aid and business office staff



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Front row from left, Ruthie Lebehn (COM-FSM), Lisa Rafael (PCC), Margret Lebehn (COM-FSM), PacFAA past president and trainer Jeff Anderson, PCC president Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, Valyn Chong Gum (CMI), Arinda Albert (COM-FSM). Second row from left, Judy Ronald (CMI), Ember Nakamura (PCC), Angie Fuentes (PCC), Debbie Ngiraibai (PCC), Olivia Kiruu Katosang (PCC), Rhea Francisco (PCC), DilMeang Ishim (PCC), Kristy Olkeril (PCC), and Isume-chraard 'Isu' Ngiraikl (PCC).

Palau Community College successfully hosted the Pacific Financial Aid Association training session led by PacFAA former president Jeff Anderson for the Freely Associated States financial aid and business office staff at Palau Community College Assembly Hall last Aug. 31.

PacFAA is a non-profit organization that provides support to financial aid administrators and other agencies involved in the administration of financial aid programs in postsecondary educational institutions across the Pacific. Attendees included financial aid and business office staff from College of Micronesia-FSM, the College of the Marshall Islands, and Palau Community College.

The session focused on several critical areas, including the updated Pell Grant awarding process, Federal Work Study, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant guidelines and ap-

plication process. The training session also fostered a collaborative environment, allowing participants to share experiences and best practices with their peers. This exchange of ideas was instrumental in addressing common challenges and exploring solutions to better support students with the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid application process.

At the end of the training, it became evident that future similar trainings/collaboration focused on the Freely Associated States/Pacific Islands would be very beneficial in ensuring best practices and compliance with Title IV aid administration during this transition period. At the end of the day, what we do will ultimately benefit the students who depend on financial assistance in pursuing their higher education goals. PCC said it thanks Anderson and PacFAA for his insight, commitment and assistance. **(PR)**



GAIN

Guam Animals In Need is Guam's only animal shelter offering pet adoptions and low-cost spay and neuter services.

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Right About
Saipan Tribune
THE ISLAND'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

On 'eating the cats' and immigration limits

“They’re eating the cats” may be the perfect encapsulation of Donald Trump’s brilliance and flaws.

The former president uttered that line during Tuesday’s presidential debate. He was referring to claims that Haitian migrants in Springfield, Ohio, are eating people’s pets. He also said, “They’re eating the dogs.”

Similar claims had gone viral before the debate, although they involved cats and geese, not dogs. His supporters had created a swarm of images showing Trump defending cats and geese.

Here’s the context for what’s happening. In 2020, the Census Bureau said Springfield had a bit under 59,000 residents. Somewhere between 15,000 to 20,000 Haitian migrants have moved to the town in the past few years.

The Biden-Harris administration has taken steps to protect these migrants. The Homeland Security Department recently granted Temporary Protected Status to around 500,000 Haitians.

Before this town burst onto the national scene, local residents were raising concerns. They’re worried about increases in crime and car accidents. In August 2023, a Haitian migrant drove a van into a school bus. Tragically, one boy died, and more than 20 students were injured. The driver didn’t have a valid driver’s license.

The city didn’t have the infrastructure to have its population artificially explode by 25% to 33%. Residents face higher rents. The migrants have overwhelmed the local medical and education systems.

“The community health clinic saw a 13-fold increase in Haitian patients between 2021 and 2023, from 115 to 1,500, overwhelming its staff and budget,” The New York Times reported recently.

Longtime residents have pleaded with their city officials to help.

“It is so unsafe,” a woman identified as Noel told the city commission at one meeting. “I have men that cannot speak English in my front yard screaming at me, throwing mattresses in my front yard, throwing trash in my front yard.”

She continued, “I weigh 95 pounds. I couldn’t defend myself if I had to.” She said her husband told her it was time to move out of their home of 45 years.

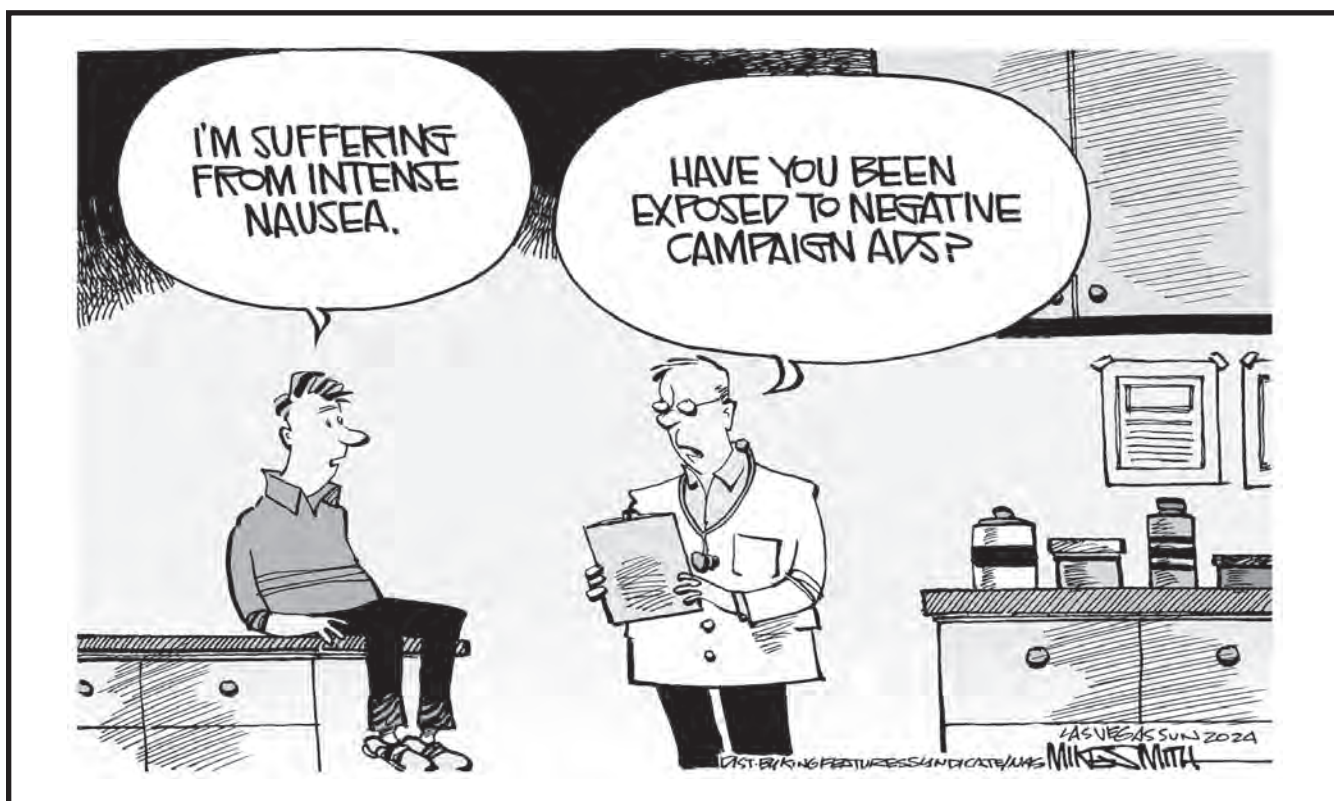
The left is focused on Trump’s specific claim. As moderator/part-time debater David Muir said during the debate, “ABC News did reach out to the city manager there. He told us there have been no credible reports of specific claims of pets being harmed, injured or abused by individuals within the immigrant community.”

Leave aside the folly of the press unquestioningly accepting the word of a government official. There have been some secondhand and unsubstantiated reports of migrants eating cats. It’s hard to even find rumors about abducted dogs. There’s better evidence, including a 911 call, of Haitian migrants taking geese from a local park.

Getting the facts right or at least using appropriate caveats matters. Trump shouldn’t play fast and loose with the details.

But here’s what the left misses. Unchecked immigration in Springfield has substantially lowered the quality of life for the Americans living there. And the left didn’t care until it be-

See CATS on Page 7



How can millions of voters still be undecided between Trump and Harris? Here are their reasons

WASHINGTON—In a U.S. presidential race that features a deeply polarized electorate and a sharp contrast between the two candidates, most voters have known for months which side they are on.

Then there are people like Faith.

A middle-aged manager of a substance abuse treatment center in southern Pennsylvania, she voted for Donald Trump in 2016 and Joe Biden in 2020.

This year she is among millions of voters in swing states who are still wrestling over which way to vote—or whether to vote at all. They are likely to decide the outcome.

In a focus group of swing voters, Faith said she disliked Trump for the reasons she turned against him four years ago — “the bullying and the arrogance”—but that she wasn’t sure what she thought about Kamala Harris.

Harris “says all the right things, but I need to know a little bit more about who she is,” said Faith, who, like others in the focus groups I observed last week, participated on the condition that her last name not be disclosed. “She talked about an ‘opportunity economy.’ I want to know what that means.”

The precise number of voters still up for grabs is hard to pin down, because most polls don’t offer “undecided” as an option. But pollsters estimate it’s between 5% and 10% of the electorate.

That stubborn minority is more than enough voters to determine the outcome of an election that could be decided by razor-thin margins in seven swing states.

Who are these indecisive people who find it hard to choose between vividly different candidate?

They fall into several categories.

Some, but not all, are “low-information voters,” people who are only now tuning into the campaign.

“A lot of them are people who don’t follow politics closely, or at all,” said Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster. “They only get around to thinking about politics when they have to make a decision on who they will vote for — if they vote at all.”

Others are so-called double haters—voters who dislike both candidates. As many as 15% of the electorate fell into this category in polls last month, although that number is probably shrinking.

“They are people who do pay attention to politics and don’t like what they see,” Ayres said.

In 2016, they were a decisive factor in swinging the election to Trump; in 2020, they helped swing it back to Biden.

Still others are independents, focused mostly on economic issues.

“They’re looking for the answer to their question: What are you going to do to get the country on a better track in terms of the economy?” said GOP pollster David Winston.

And a few, like Faith in Pennsylvania, are moderate Republicans who don’t like Trump but still hesitate to vote for a Democrat like Harris who has sometimes veered toward her party’s progressive wing.

“There’s a part of me that longs for Dick Cheney, Mitt Rom-

By **DOYLE MCMANUS**

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



ney, John McCain,” Faith said.

I sat in on three focus groups, all drawn from voters who had supported Trump in 2016 and Biden in 2020. Two of the groups were assembled by Engagious, a public opinion consulting firm, for the media organization Axios. The third was put together by the GOP dissident group Republican Voters Against Trump; the participants were not members.

Most of the 20 swing voters weren’t entirely undecided, but almost all said they needed more information — especially about Harris—before they make up their minds.

“I do not want Trump back in office,” said Jennifer, who works for a nonprofit in Wisconsin. But “with Harris, I just don’t feel as if I know enough about her ... and what she stands for.”

Bryan, 39, who lives in Atlanta’s western exurbs, said he initially leaned toward Trump, but Harris’s strong performance in last week’s debate gave him second thoughts. He still wants to hear more about Harris’s economic plans.

“I think she needs more well-defined policy,” he said. “I feel like she’s been vague.”

The economy “was better under Trump,” he said, but the Republican candidate “needs to act presidential and come in with facts that aren’t lies.”

Rich Thau of Engagious said he has noticed several patterns in the dozens of similar focus groups he has convened.

“It’s a contest between someone they don’t like and someone they don’t know,” he said. “There’s a huge lack of awareness on Harris’ economic plan, a huge fill-in-the-blank that she is just starting to fill.

“Voters who are struggling in this economy often remember the Trump years fondly,” he said. “They think he can do the job on the economy better, but they can’t stand the guy. So for them, this choice is a 50-50 proposition.”

The lessons for the candidates, at least from these voters, are clear.

To appeal to undecideds, Trump needs to tone down his rhetoric, stop spreading myths about migrants eating dogs and cats, and reinforce his economic credentials. Instead, he appears to be leaning deeper into falsehoods and conspiracy theories.

And Harris needs to talk in more detail about her economic plans. The good news for her is that those undecided voters are listening—and many are looking for a reason to move in her direction.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Prioritizing leadership and mentorship will prevent teachers from leaving the profession

Our eighth graders have a yearly tradition: They walk the hallways on their last day of school while the sixth and seventh graders and their teachers stand and honor them as they leave. As I walked with one of my eighth graders, Murphy, sixth and seventh grade teachers were giving him high-fives. I noticed him looking lonely and asked him what was wrong.

“None of my teachers from sixth and seventh grade are here. I barely recognize any of these people.”

I went through the list of Murphy’s previous teachers. They had left our school or teaching entirely. None of the people who got him here were there, and he didn’t know anyone cheering him on.

Murphy’s experience is real. America’s teacher shortage shows no signs of abating. Early career educators are departing—especially at high-poverty schools, leaving many students, like Murphy, longing for the teachers who left. This fleeing of educators is a national crisis and we must address it as such especially since failure—an educational system that lacks highly qualified artisans—is not an option.

The first step is prioritizing teacher growth and development. As we want our students to grow, teachers must experience growth opportunities as professionals do in any other field. Encouraging teachers to see themselves as leaders is a good start. Even though we lead children every day through a plethora of content and life experiences, many of us don’t see ourselves as leaders.

I didn’t until one day, late in my career, our superintendent visited my classroom. After observing me, she told me that she saw me as an “educational leader, a rebel leader.” This experience of “the shoulder tap”—when a mentor identifies a teacher’s lead-

ership potential—changed my professional life. Yet, I wonder what would have happened if she didn’t observe me. Shoulder taps are powerful, but accidental. Many leaders get missed.

Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz’s story reminded me how important it was for teachers to see themselves as leaders. He leaned into his teaching as a form of leadership. I was fortunate to grow my leadership capacity, to know what needed to be said, through my work with Teach Plus, a teacher leadership and advocacy organization. When teachers don’t see themselves as leaders, our vision does not grow. Leaning into my leadership has helped me to see myself empowered to make educational change on the classroom, school, district and state levels. It gave me the confidence to use my voice to help fight for kids and teachers. When we see ourselves as leaders, our vision grows and students like Murphy benefit.

The second step is fortifying mentoring. Younger and under-represented teachers benefit from a mentor. I did. Throughout my first year, I would arrive early to my mentor’s classroom armed with my notebook of questions. He would then meet me at day’s end, when the notebook had grown. That experience helped me during a difficult first year. Since then, I have mentored many younger teachers whose fears and uncertainties have been similar to mine. In mentoring and finding a space where they feel honored, these teachers gain strength and confidence and no longer feel alone.

My experience with mentoring is not unique. A good mentor can sustain younger teachers in the profession. Preventing the loss in Murphy’s and these teachers’ eyes fuels my mentoring today.

The third step is changing school structures to match our students’ and teachers’ realities. I not only have to brainstorm with

By **ASHLEY A. KANNAN**

Chicago Tribune

Ashley A. Kannan is an eighth grade U.S. history teacher at Oak Park Elementary School District 97 and Teach Plus Senior Policy Fellow and Teach Plus Writing Fellow.



my students a future impossible to determine, but help them develop skills to successfully compete in it. Yet, school structures function as they always have: one teacher teaching a class of students, in a one-size-fits all approach.

Teachers like me need a redesigned profession. This could involve innovative approaches to collaborative teaching, changing the school week schedule and design, emphasizing individualized learning projects, constructing student-centered school days, or altering the time spent in school. Our profession needs to keep with what I know I need to do to prepare my students for a complicated future.

In a restructured profession, I could successfully navigate challenges to help my students be more confident and prepared for an uncertain future while helping other teachers gain strength and power as they wave to Murphy as he leaves.

We can take these concrete steps to help all teachers find a home in the profession as they provide a home to their students. Before parting ways on his last day of eighth grade, I told Murphy he can always come visit because “I’ll still be here,” a promise that made him smile.

Want cheaper grocery bills? Give kids free school meals

For American households, the good news is that inflation rates have largely returned to pre-pandemic levels. Perhaps most importantly, economists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture predict that gains in food price will continue to moderate. Indeed, data compiled by Adobe Inc. shows that online grocery prices fell 3.7% in August from a month earlier, the largest decline since the firm began tracking the numbers in 2014.

That said, there’s still plenty of bad news. Grocery prices overall are still up 20% over the past four years, leading to lingering sticker shock at the food store. In an Ipsos survey at the end of last year, two-thirds of respondents said that purchasing food is where they most felt the effects of inflation. This election’s presidential candidates have taken notice. Vice President Kamala Harris has floated a plan to prevent price gouging at grocery stores. Former President Donald Trump has offered no real policy details, but has promised to bring down prices. Here’s a proven solution for lowering food prices that neither has mentioned: free school meals.

The history of school meals is far from glorious—and I’m not just referring to the many childhood stories of cafeteria slop. There have been many low political moments, too, such as when President Ronald Reagan proposed such drastic lowering of nutritional requirements in school lunches that ketchup counted as a vegetable. But times have changed. Starting with the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the nutritional value of school meals has improved. Vegetables, fruits, whole grains are required, with strict limits on saturated fats and added salt and sugar.

What changed was not only on the plate, but who was served the plate. In the past, individual household income was the sole

determinant of who received school lunches for free or at reduced prices. But schools, often but not exclusively in low-income areas, now have the option to apply for the federal Act’s Community Eligibility Provision and receive breakfast and lunch for all their students at no cost.

The Community Eligibility Provision was rolled out gradually over a period of three years starting in the 2011-2012 school year, first to schools in a set of pilot states and then everywhere, but participation still came down to the schools. This was a boon for economists because it allowed them to identify the effect of free meals on various outcomes. Three separate research projects found that access to free meals improved academic performance. The effects are larger for those from lower-income households but all students did better.

The findings were not all that surprising. Prior studies found that children from households receiving food stamps did much better on exams, both end-of-year grade level tests and the SAT, in the week after their benefit was replenished compared with the week before, when benefits were more likely to run out and their hunger rise. But hunger isn’t averaged over a month or a year like the way programs do with household incomes when determining eligibility. Free meals, when targeted only to the very poor, miss kids in need. There’s even evidence that the quality of the meal is its own margin for academic aid—feeding kids helps them learn but feeding kids more nutritional food is better.

This academic boost is one reason a handful of states have expanded free meals to all schools. And it’s one reason that the effect on food prices has received less attention—but it’s there. A working paper from a pair of economists at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business and the University of California, Berkeley’s Haas Business School looked at the

By **KATHRYN ANNE EDWARDS**

Bloomberg Opinion

Kathryn Anne Edwards is a labor economist and independent policy consultant.



community eligibility role from a market perspective.

In theory it’s a simple demand story: fewer meals prepared at home means less needed to buy at the store, and lower demand at the store means lower prices. There’s a lot that could go wrong, including households using the savings to buy more expensive food, too few households could patron the grocery store or represent too small a customer base to impact prices—but it’s exactly what the economists found. In localities with community eligibility, grocery sales declined 10% at big chains, which was enough for them to cut prices 2.5%, even at locations in other areas.

As a social policy, free school meals is hard to beat. Kids do better in school, struggling parents benefit from having to spend less money on food, and all households benefit from lower prices. As a price policy, it’s not perfect. The reduction in retail demand could be offset by greater wholesale demand, where prices could increase. And the results came from a study of large chains. Small grocers, especially those in rural areas, may not have as much flexibility with prices.

Sure, this will cost the federal government money. But this isn’t a hard decision: give the kids free meals at school.

CATS

From page 6

came a Trump cat meme.

Trump cares though, and he wants to fix it. In his first term, he successfully reduced illegal immigration to a manageable level. The Biden-Harris administration reversed Trump’s policies, and

illegal immigration exploded. Caring for those illegal aliens has burdened even large liberal cities.

Most Americans support some level of legal immigration. But most Americans also understand that assimilation needs to occur as well. That won’t happen smoothly when the number of newcomers in one place is too large.

Just remember the reaction when Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis sent around 50 illegal immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard, a place






beloved by many rich Democrats. Massachusetts called in the National Guard to get them off the island. Most of the newcomers were gone within days.

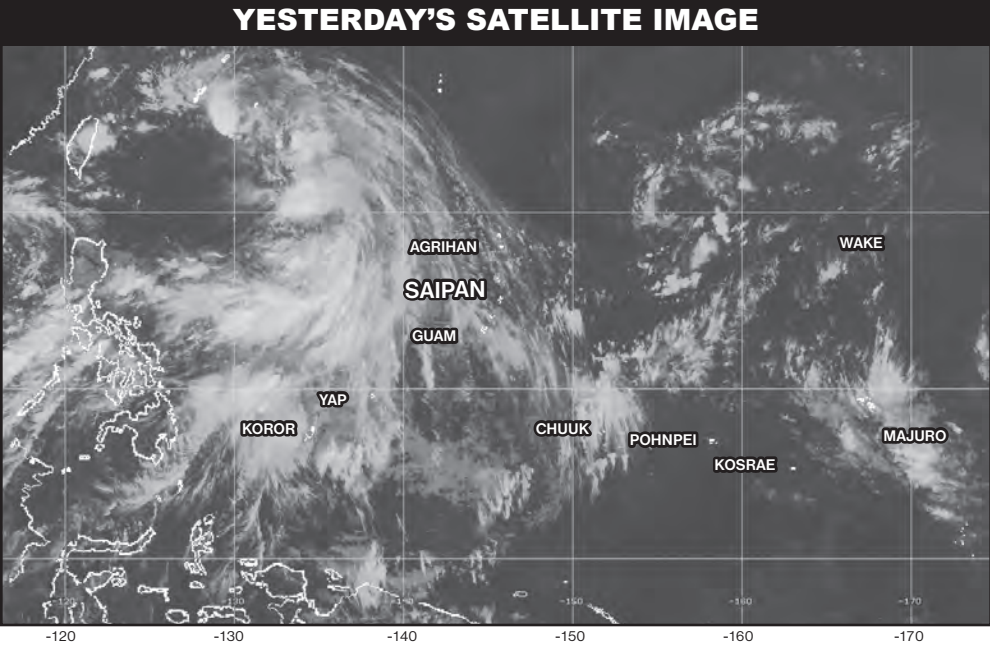
Yet, a small town in Ohio is supposed to handle upwards of 20,000 migrants without raising a peep.

That—not the validity of cat-eating claims—is what many voters are upset about and why they support Trump.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
87°	78°	87°	78°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	79°



PICTURE TIME: 6:21 AM TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 , 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Weather radar shows scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms moving through the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed of a moderate west swell and a smaller east swell with some wind waves mixed in. Tropical Storm Pulasan is moving west-northwest and will be exiting Micronesia later today. Other than some west swell, there is little effect on Micronesia as there are no Micronesian islands in its path.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Light Rain	86° / 77°	
Palau	Cloudy	88° / 80°	
Yap	Light Rain	84° / 78°	
Chuuk	Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 76°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:53 AM	7:09 PM
Friday	-	7:53 AM	7:54 PM
Saturday	-	8:55 AM	8:41 PM
Sunday	-	9:58 AM	9:32 PM
Monday	-	11:01 AM	10:26 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 54°	
Beijing	Fair	83° / 68°	
Hong Kong	Fair	92° / 80°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Showers	63° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 64°	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Melbourne	Rain	61° / 43°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	77° / 62°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	63° / 46°	
Busan	Windy	77° / 70°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	84° / 64°	
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 57°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°	
Tokyo	Sunny	90° / 75°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	77° / 63°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:11 AM	Low Tide	0.49	
8:02 AM	High Tide	2.16	
2:30 PM	Low Tide	0.27	
8:28 PM	High Tide	2.10	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sep 2-8	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	7C3472	11:00AM	4:40PM	Sep 15-18
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily Sep 16-22	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	7 Sep 1
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 7 Sep 23-29	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Sep 2-8
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 5, 6, 7 Sep 9-15
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily Sep 16-22
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Sep 15-18				1, 7 Sep 23-29
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
				HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T*Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

SBDC, CWA announce 4th cohort of Women Entrepreneurship Project

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network at the Northern Marianas College and the CNMI Women’s Association are pleased to announce the open registration period of cohort four of the Women Entrepreneurship Project, set to take place from Oct. 15 to 18, 2024, at the NMC As Terlaje Campus Room J-15. These sessions, running from 5:30pm to 7:30pm during the four-day training series, aim to equip women entrepreneurs with practical skills and resources to enhance their business success.

The Women Entrepreneurship Project is a collaborative initiative between the CNMI SBDC and CWA, designed to support and nurture women-owned businesses in the Commonwealth. Now

in its fourth year, this collaboration has continued to empower women with vital knowledge, mentorship, and networking opportunities to grow their ventures.

Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec, CNMI SBDC acting network director, emphasized the ongoing impact of the program. “Over the years, the Women Entrepreneurship Project has empowered women across the CNMI to overcome barriers in business by equipping them with essential training and support. This fourth cohort builds on that success by offering participants new tools and strategies, from securing credit and accessing federal opportunities to forming strong business partnerships, further enhancing their entrepreneurial journey.”

Dorsha Moreno, president of the CNMI Women’s Association, also highlighted the importance of this initiative. “The Women Entrepreneurship Project has become a cornerstone for empowering local women to take charge of their entrepreneurial journeys. Through this continued partnership with the CNMI SBDC, we’re helping women not only develop critical skills but also connect with resources that can propel their businesses forward. We’re excited to see the positive impact this fourth cohort will have on our community.”

The Women Entrepreneurship Project invites aspiring and established women entrepreneurs to join Cohort 4 and seize the opportunity to take their businesses to new heights. To register for one or all of the trainings, refer to the

following links:

Tuesday, Oct.15, 2024

- Credit Ecosystem: Commercial Loan & Business Credit
- Equip yourself with the knowledge needed to navigate commercial loans, build strong business credit and
- Better understand your financials.
- Registration Link: <https://marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019166>

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024

- Exploring CNMI’s SSBCI 2.0
- Dive into CNMI’s SSBCI (State Small Business Credit Initiative) 2.0 program and uncover available
- Opportunities to help support your business financially.

- Registration Link: <https://marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019167>

Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024

- The Anatomy of the RFP
- Master the components of a successful Request for Proposal (RFP) to enhance your ability to secure
- Contracts in the federal contracting space.
- Registration Link: <https://marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019168>

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024

- Consignment Symbiosis: Partnering for Optimal Inventory Growth
- Learn how consignment partnerships can improve inventory management, boost sales and get your name out
- There to expose your

brand and business in the market.

- Registration Link: <https://marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019169>

Attendees must be a registered CNMI SBDC client. At the end of the cohort session, certificates of completion will be issued to attendees with perfect attendance throughout the four-day training session.

Attendees are allowed to miss a session but will not be issued a certificate of completion at the end of the program.

For more information, visit www.cnmisbdc.com or contact us at (670) 237-6888 / cnmisbdc@marianas.edu.

Follow SBDC on social media for the latest updates: Instagram @cnmisbdc and Facebook at CNMI Small Business Development Center Network. (PR)

Federal Reserve set to cut interest rates for first time in 4 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—Having all but tamed inflation, the Federal Reserve is poised to do something Wednesday it hasn’t done in more than four years: Cut its benchmark interest rate, a step that should lead to lower borrowing costs for consumers and businesses just weeks before the presidential election.

And yet an unusual air of uncertainty overhangs this week’s meeting: It’s unclear just how large the Fed’s rate cut will be. Wall Street traders and some economists foresee a growing likelihood that the central bank will announce a larger-

than-usual half-point cut. Many analysts foresee a more typical quarter-point rate cut.

With inflation barely above their target level, Fed officials have been shifting their focus toward supporting a weakening job market and achieving a rare “soft landing,” whereby it curbs inflation without causing a sharp recession. A half-point rate cut would signal that the Fed is as determined to sustain healthy economic growth as it is to conquer high inflation. This week’s move is expected to be only the first in a series of Fed rate cuts that will extend into 2025.

High interest rates and elevated prices for everything from groceries to gas to rent have fanned widespread public disillusionment with the economy and provided a line of attack for former President Donald Trump’s campaign. Vice President Kamala Harris, in turn, has charged that Trump’s promise to slap tariffs on all imports would raise prices for consumers much further.

Over time, Fed rate cuts should lower borrowing costs for mortgages, auto loans and credit cards, as well as for business loans. Business spending could grow, and so could stock

prices. Companies and consumers could refinance loans into lower-rate debt.

Chair Jerome Powell made clear last month in a high-profile

speech in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, that Fed officials feel confident that inflation has largely been defeated. It has plummeted from a peak of 9.1% in June 2022 to 2.5% last month, not far above the Fed’s 2% target.

Central bank officials fought against spiking prices by raising their key interest rate 11 times in 2022 and 2023 to a two-decade high of 5.3% to try to slow borrowing and spending, ultimately cooling the economy.

Trump repeats his false claim of Chinese automakers building big Mexican factories

DETROIT (AP)—Former President Donald Trump on Tuesday repeated false claims that Chinese automakers are putting up large factories in Mexico, vowing during a stop in the automaking state of Michigan to slap 200% tariffs on any vehicles the unbuilt plants make and ship to the United States.

Trump also claimed during an event in Flint that if Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris is elected in November, there will be no more auto industry in the U.S., because work building electric vehicles will go to China.

That statement came even though automaking employment has grown since President Joe Biden took office in January 2021, after dropping during Trump’s first term.

“If I don’t win, you will have no auto industry within two to three years,” Trump said, calling any increases under Biden and Harris temporary. “You will not have any manufacturing plants. China is going to take over all of them because of the electric car.”

He told the crowd he would make foreign automakers build factories in the U.S. by imposing tariffs on imported autos, saying it “will be like taking candy from a baby.”

Foreign automakers already have multiple U.S. factories, mainly in southern states.


Auto jobs dipped 0.8% during Trump’s term to just over 949,000 in January 2021, when he left office, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Since Biden took office that month, auto and parts jobs

rose 13.6% to 1.07 million in August, so there’s no evidence of the industry disappearing. Auto sales were up 2.4% in the first half of this year.

Trump said his tariffs would make Chinese vehicles built in Mexico unsellable in the U.S., forcing automakers from China and elsewhere to set up factories in the U.S.

“They’re owned and built by China in Mexico, and there are a number of them going up right now,” Trump said of Chinese factories.

Although some Chinese automakers aspire to sell in the U.S., industry analysts say there are no large Chinese-owned auto factories under construction in Mexico, and there’s only one small Chinese auto assembly factory operating there.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

State Rehabilitation Council


&

Statewide Independent Living Council

“Yes I Can!”

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council will hold their FY 2024 Joint Fourth General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 10:00 AM at Aqua Resort Club (Taga Room). Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I.

Call to Order

II.

Roll Call

III.

Review and Adoption of Agenda

IV.

Review and Adoption of General Membership Meeting Minutes

a.

SRC Third General Membership Meeting (July 30, 2024)

b.

SILC Third General Membership Meeting (August 21, 2024)

V.

Reports

a.

SRC Chairperson

b.

SILC Chairperson

c.

CLI Executive Director

d.

OVR Director

VI.

Old Business

a.

SRC Membership Listing

b.

SILC Membership Listing

VII.

New Business

a.

FY 2024 SRC/SILC/OVR Annual Report

b.

SRC Membership Attendance

c.

SILC Membership Attendance

VIII.

Action Items

a.

Review and Adoption of FY 2025 SRC Resource Plan

b.

Review and Adoption of FY 2025 SILC Resource Plan

c.

Election of Officers for SRC

d.

Election of SILC Fiscal Officer

IX.

Miscellaneous

X.

Adjournment

/s/Antonelli Rosario, SRC Chairperson

/s/Nicolas Torres, SILC Chairperson

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require reasonable accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter must contact the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation at (670) 322-6537/38 or email nmidir@ovrgov.net before 3:00 PM on Friday, September 20, 2024.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (DOE-OSERS Grant #H126A240078).

Nation

Harris condemns Trump's rhetoric

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday decried Republican Donald Trump for inflammatory rhetoric about migrants in Springfield, Ohio, and on other topics, saying voters should make sure he “can’t have that microphone again.”

Sitting down for a rare extended campaign interview Tuesday with a trio of journalists from the National Association of Black Journalists, Harris said

her heart breaks after threats of violence have disrupted the city following comments amplified by Trump and his running mate alleging, without evidence, that immigrants are kidnapping and consuming people's pets.

Two days after Secret Service agents foiled an apparent assassination attempt on Trump, who blamed Democratic rhetoric for the latest threat to his life, Harris said that “there are far too many people in our country right now who are not feeling safe.” She referenced the threats to immigrants, but also the conservative Project 2025 blueprint for the next Republican administration and a GOP-led effort to restrict abortion access.

“Not everybody has Secret Service,” she said. “Members of the LGBTQ community don’t feel safe right now, immigrants or people with an immigrant background don’t feel safe right now. Women don’t feel safe right now.”

Harris said she personally has confidence in the Secret Service and feels safe under their protection. She spoke briefly with Trump on Tuesday to express her gratitude that he

» Says voters should make sure he ‘can’t have that microphone again’

was safe, but in the interview said his rhetoric should be disqualifying.

“When you have that kind of microphone in front of you, you really ought to understand at a deep level that your words have meaning,” Harris said, without mentioning Trump by name. “Let’s turn the page and chart a new way forward and say you can’t have that microphone again.”

Harris said the Republican attacks on the city and migrants there were “lies that are grounded in tropes that are age old.”

The sedate interview in Philadelphia stood in contrast to former President Donald Trump’s appearance before the same organization just a month ago, which turned con-

tentious over matters of race and other issues.

The Trump interview opened a chapter in the campaign in which the Republican candidate repeatedly questioned Harris’ racial identity, baselessly claiming that she had only belatedly “turned Black” at some point in her professional career. Trump has since repeatedly questioned Harris’ racial identity on the campaign trail and during the September presidential debate.

Harris, the daughter of a Jamaican father and an Indian mother, has repeatedly dismissed Trump’s remarks as “the same old show.” During her September debate with Trump, she said it was a “tragedy” that he had “attempted to use race to divide the American people.”

The vice president insisted she is working to earn the vote of Black men and not taking any constituency for granted. Black male voters are traditionally one of the most consistently Democratic-leaning demographics in the nation. But Republicans have tried to make inroads, while Democrats worry about flagging enthusiasm at the polls.

“I think it’s very important to not operate from the assumption that Black men are in anybody’s pocket,” Harris said. “Black men are like any other voting group. You gotta earn their vote, so I’m working to earn the vote, not assuming I’m gonna have it because I’m Black”

Speaker takes another crack at spending bill linked to proof of citizenship for new voters

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House is scheduled to vote Wednesday on Speaker Mike Johnson’s proposal that links the funding of the federal government for the new budget year with a mandate that states require proof of citizenship when people register to vote.

Johnson pulled the bill from consideration last week and said he would work over the weekend to build consensus for it within the Republican ranks. It’s unclear whether he was able to do so as some GOP members have concerns about continuing current spending levels, but Johnson said he is determined to hold the vote regardless. Meanwhile, Democrats overwhelmingly oppose the measure.

Requiring new voters to provide proof of citizenship has become a leading election-year priority for Republicans raising the specter of nonciti-

zens voting in the U.S., even though it’s already illegal to do so and research has shown that such voting is rare.

“I urge all of my colleagues to do what the overwhelming majority of the people of this country rightfully demand and deserve—prevent non-American citizens from voting in American elections,” Johnson said Tuesday.

Johnson told reporters he was not ready to discuss an alternative plan to keep the government funded other than what will come before the House on Wednesday.

“I’m not having any alternative conversations. That’s the play. It’s an important one. And I’m going to work around the clock to try and get it done,” Johnson said.

House members also said Johnson was not discussing alternatives with them should the bill fail.

“There is no Plan B,” said

Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Fla.

Lawmakers are not close to completing work on the dozen annual appropriations bills that will fund the agencies during the next fiscal year, so they’ll need to approve a stopgap measure to prevent a partial shutdown when the new fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said the only way to prevent a government shutdown was for both sides to work together on an agreement. He said the House vote announced by Johnson was doomed to fail.

“The only thing that will accomplish is make clear that he’s running into a dead end,” Schumer said. “We must have a bipartisan plan instead.”

The legislation would fund agencies at current levels while lawmakers work out their differences on a full-year spending agreement.

World

Hezbollah hit by wave of exploding pagers

BEIRUT (AP)—Pagers used by hundreds of members of the militant group Hezbollah exploded near-simultaneously Tuesday in Lebanon and Syria, killing at least nine people, including an 8-year-old girl, and wounding several thousand, officials said. Hezbollah and the Lebanese government blamed Israel for what appeared to be a sophisticated remote attack.

An American official said Israel briefed the United States on Tuesday after the conclusion of the operation, in which small amounts of explosive secreted in the pagers were detonated. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the information publicly.

The Israeli military declined to comment.

Among those wounded was Iran’s ambassador to Lebanon. The mysterious explosions came amid rising tensions between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah, which have exchanged fire across the Israel-Lebanon border since the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas that sparked the war in Gaza.

The pagers that blew up were apparently acquired by Hezbollah after the group’s leader ordered members in February to stop using cellphones, warning they



AP
Civil Defense first-responders carry a wounded man whose handheld pager exploded at al-Zahraa hospital in Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024.

could be tracked by Israeli intelligence. A Hezbollah official told The Associated Press the pagers were a new brand, but declined to say how long they had been in use.

At about 3:30 p.m. local time on Tuesday, as people shopped for groceries, sat in cafes or drove cars and motorcycles in the afternoon traffic, the pagers in their hands or pockets started heating up and then exploding—leaving blood-splattered scenes and panicking bystanders.

It appeared that many of those hit were members of Hezbollah, but it was not immediately clear if non-Hezbollah members also carried any of the exploding pagers.

The blasts were mainly in

areas where the group has a strong presence, particularly a southern Beirut suburb and in the Beqaa region of eastern Lebanon, as well as in Damascus, according to Lebanese security officials and a Hezbollah official. The Hezbollah official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

The explosions came hours after Israel’s internal security agency said it had foiled an attempt by Hezbollah to kill a former senior Israeli security official using a planted explosive device that could be remotely detonated.

The United States “was not aware of this incident in advance” and was not involved, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said. “At this point, we’re gathering information.”

Putin orders military to boost troop numbers by 180,000 to 1.5M

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday ordered the country’s military to increase its number of troops by 180,000 to a total of 1.5 million, as Moscow’s military action in Ukraine drags on for more than 2 ½ years.

Putin’s decree, published on the official government website, will take effect Dec. 1. It sets the overall number of Russian military personnel at nearly 2.4 million, including 1.5 million troops, and orders the government to provide the necessary funding.

The previous increase in Russian troop numbers came last December, when a decree by Putin set the total number of Russian military personnel at about 2.2 million, includ-

ing 1.32 million troops.

The most capable Russian troops have been pressing an offensive in eastern Ukraine, where they have made incremental but steady gains in the past few months.

In June, Putin put the number of troops involved in what the Kremlin calls the “special military operation” in Ukraine at nearly 700,000.

After calling up 300,000 reservists in the face of Ukraine’s counteroffensive in the fall of 2022, Russian authorities have switched to filling the ranks of troops fighting in Ukraine with volunteer soldiers, who have been attracted by relatively high wages.

Many commentators have noted that the Kremlin has

been reluctant to call more reservists, fearing domestic destabilization like what happened in 2022 when hundreds of thousands fled Russia to avoid being sent to combat.

The shortage of military personnel has been widely cited as a key reason behind the success of Ukraine’s incursion into Russia’s Kursk region launched Aug. 6.

The Kremlin has sought to avoid the redeployment of troops from eastern Ukraine and relied on reinforcements from other areas to stem the Ukrainian incursion. The Russian Defense Ministry on Monday reported reclaiming control of two more villages in the Kursk region from Ukrainian forces.

Life & Style

MOVIE REVIEW:

'Transformers One,' an origin story no one wants with brutality levels no one needs

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

Movie origin stories finally reach their nadir this week with "Transformers One," the super-violent, toy-selling vehicle that tells the tale of how Optimus Prime and Megatron went from besties to foes. Did anyone ask for this? Did Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner ask for too much money? The computer-animated "Transformers One" is out of time, a throwback to a few years ago when Hollywood

mined popular IP for forgotten heroes, built overly complex worlds and then ramped up the action so that the audience just got numbed to a blur of battles. But "Transformers One" isn't good enough to watch on a plane, even a trans-Pacific flight. The in-flight map is better. A map isn't a bad idea, actually: You may need some sort of guide for this one—those uninitiated to the folklore of Cybertron are flung helplessly into references to Energon,



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows characters, from left, D-16/Megatron, voiced by Brian Tyree Henry, Elita-1, voiced by Scarlett Johansson, Orion Pax/Optimus Prime, voiced by Chris Hemsworth, and B-127, voiced by Keegan-Michael Key, in a scene from "Transformers One."

Sean 'Diddy' Combs jailed by judge after sex trafficking indictment

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs headed to jail Tuesday to await trial in a federal sex trafficking case that accuses him of presiding over a sordid empire of sexual crimes protected by blackmail and shocking acts of violence. The music mogul is charged with racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking. The indictment against him lists allegations that go back to 2008. He's accused of inducing female victims and male sex workers into drugged-up, sometimes dayslong sexual performances dubbed "Freak Offs." The indictment also refers obliquely to an attack on his former girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie, that was captured on video. "Not guilty," Combs told a court, standing to speak after

expressionlessly listening to the allegations with his uncuffed hands folded in his lap. After U.S. Magistrate Judge Robyn Tarnofsky declined to grant him bail, Combs took a long swig from a water bottle, then was led out of court, turning toward family members in the audience as he went. "Mr. Combs is a fighter. He's going to fight this to the end. He's innocent," his lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, said after court. He plans to appeal the bail decision. The Bad Boy Records founder is accused of sexually abusing and using physical force toward women and getting his personal assistants, security and household staff to help him hide it all. Prosecutors say he also tried to bribe and intimidate witnesses and victims to keep them quiet.

Alpha Trion, Quintessons and something called the Matrix of Leadership. You come in halfway into a conversation. The story by Andrew Barrer and Gabriel Ferrari is basically the Bible's Cain and Abel with a detour into the Roman Empire and the Hasbro figurines' accumulated mythology, which seems to be a series of never-ending epic battles between good and evil. Some stuff just seems downright weird, like why these robots need a gym or why after running they become breathless. The main heroes here are buddies Orion Pax and D-16—who will become mortal enemies Optimus Prime and Megatron by the end—and we meet them when they are lowly miners, basically non-transforming bots digging for reserves of the energy cleverly called Energon. This is a society in which the upper class is made up of Transformers who stomp around preening while

the lower classes do dirty jobs like comb through garbage. They all serve Sentinel Prime, the leader of the subterranean Iacon City, who is not what he seems. He is apparently the last of the Primes and lives in a marble palace, giving the people below spectacles as a diversion, like an epic road race. It gives off ancient Roman Coliseum vibes. Orion Pax (voiced with puppy-dog sweetness by Chris Hemsworth) is not satisfied by this life. "There's got to be something more I can do," he says. "Aren't you tired of being treated like you're nothing?" Brian Tyree Henry voices D-16 with skepticism and resignation. The two friends join with mining manager Elita-1 (Scarlett Johansson, bland) and Keegan-Michael Key's B-127 (who will later become fan favorite Bumblebee) to journey to the surface of the planet, find the Matrix of Leadership

(a sort of necklace that might have been sold in the Sharper Image catalog) and get a hero's welcome. But they learn some unsavory things about the ruler from the Transformer elder statesman Alpha Trion (the instantly recognizable Laurence Fishburne). Director Josh Cooley, who co-wrote the screenplay for "Inside Out" and helmed "Toy Story 4," never lets the action stop—and that's not a compliment. The camera is constantly swiveling and the violence — assault-weapon lasers, booming cannons, light torture, martial arts crunching moves, beating a rival with their own amputated limb and ceaseless pounding—is nauseating. ("Please stop punching me in the face" is a joke line here.) If Transformers ever bled, this would be an R-rated movie. The hyper-violence papers over some pretty robotic—sorry!—dialogue. Why do all these movies show the Trans-

formers with cool upgrades like laser knives but they remain speaking in stilted, operatic prose? "I want him to suffer and die in darkness," "They are to be your undoing" and "Cybertron's future is in your hands." There are some good moments, of course. When our band of misfit bots get an upgrade to Transformer status, they cutely don't know how to do it seamlessly at first, with limbs awkwardly getting mixed with vehicle parts. Anyone who has played with the toys knows the feeling. And Key never fails to generate a chuckle, proving a masterful comedic voice actor. The other actors—Jon Hamm and Steve Buscemi, included—hardly register and the movie's main song—"If I Fall" by Quavo, Ty Dolla Sign and Brian Tyler's Are We Dreaming—feels like AI wrote both the uninteresting rap-rock beat and soupy lyrics ("I'm the alpha, omega, got lights on me, Vegas." Vegas?) The saddest thing about "Transformers One" is the wastefulness of another dull outing in a universe geared toward kids just learning to transform themselves. The lessons here, unfortunately, are that friends can become enemies overnight and you only win if you beat someone hard enough. "We're better than this," Orion Pax screams at his sudden rival at one point. No, they're not. "Transformers One," a Paramount release that lands in theaters Friday, is rated PG for "sci-fi violence and animated action throughout, and language." Running time: 103 minutes. ★★★★★

Abused sister wants to share her story with man's fiancée

DEAR ABBY: I was physically, emotionally and sexually abused by my oldest brother (six years my senior) from ages 6 to 11. As soon as I could verbalize what was happening, I went to my parents and told them. They believed me, but swept it under the rug and didn't provide any kind of therapy or treatment for either of us. At 15, I had a mental breakdown. After that, I said, "It's not like I will ever forget what he did to me." My mother finally decided to get me a therapist. Through years of therapy (I'm 25 now) I found healing, grace and forgiveness, but I feel that is for me to know and no one else's business. Even though my parents know exactly what my brother did, they continue trying to mend our relationship, although I have expressed that I never want to have a relationship with him again. My brother is now engaged to a woman he's been with for four years. She has met everyone in my family except me. She has never reached out to me, which I find odd. I know my brother hasn't given her the whole truth about what he did to me as a child because he still tries to downplay it. If I were being married to someone and had met every member of their family except their only sister, I'd be suspicious and would want to know why. Should I send his fiancée an anonymous letter giving her all the details? VICTIMIZED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR VICTIMIZED: If you send your brother's fian-

cée an anonymous letter, she could construe it as "someone," possibly an old girlfriend, trying to break them up. Between you and me, I do think someone should warn her about her fiancée's history. If you are willing to risk doing it, your family is sure to be very upset. However, if you are determined to send that letter, you should have the courage to sign your name. ■ ■ ■ DEAR ABBY: My mom is getting remarried at the age of 84 to a man who is 83 and has never been married. They got engaged after dating for six months. I think it's unwise, but I want her to be happy, so I will go to the wedding. She asked her best friend to be her maid of honor, and then asked my brother to be best man because her fiancée didn't have anybody who would do it. I expressed my frustration that she asked him to be best man and not me to be her maid of honor. Now she wants me to be the maid of honor, but I really don't want to do it because I'm not in favor of the marriage. Looking back, I should've kept my mouth shut about my frustration. Should I do it out of love and respect for Mom, or hold my ground because I really think it's a bad idea? I don't want to be her maid of honor for so many reasons. INDECISIVE IN INDIANA DEAR INDECISIVE: You were outspoken regarding your reservations about the wedding, which is likely why

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



your mother asked her best friend to do it. She has now invited you to be her maid of honor because you told her you felt left out. Whether you support your mother's decision to marry this man or not, the wedding is going to happen. Unless you intend to find yourself increasingly distanced in the months and years to come, accompany your mom to the altar, wish her well and cross your fingers. ■ ■ ■ For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.) COPYRIGHT 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

Pastimes

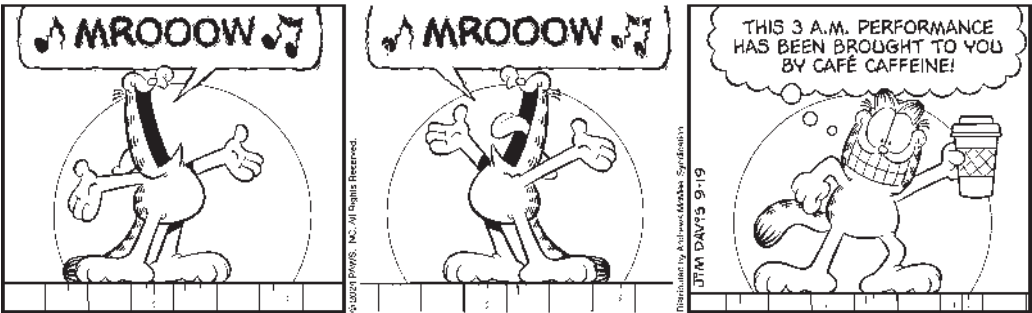
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



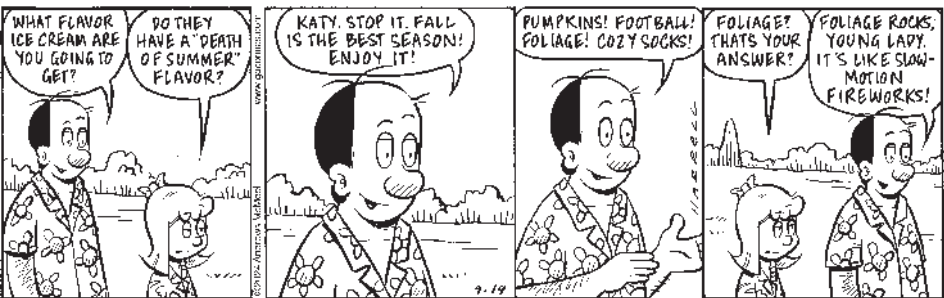
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Texas city
5 Raggedy doll
8 Diplomacy
12 Denny's rival
13 Aussie hopper
14 Singer India.—
15 Bogus deg.
16 CEO's Elliot Ness, e.g.
17 Portugal's place
20 Fast car
22 USN bigwig
23 Surgeon product
24 Rowboat needs
27 Fenced off
32 Numerical prefix
33 PBS supporter
34 Texter's "Enough!"
35 Make an impression
38 "30 for 30" airt

DOWN

1 Laptop connection
2 Melville mariner
3 Pepsi rival
4 Verdi works
5 Weaponry
6 San Francisco's — Hill
7 Ancient mariner
8 Body art
9 Theater seat
10 "Arrivederci!"
11 Look after
19 Freudian concept
21 Magic, on scoreboards
24 Wilder's "— Town"
25 Hydrocarbon ending
26 Valuable assistant, figuratively
28 Formerly called
29 Auto thief's dread
30 Nero's title (Abbr.)
31 Cacophony
36 Pictures
37 Drunkard
38 Pooh's mokey pal
41 Little — Peep
42 Hindu deity
43 Taking action
44 Harrow rival
46 Couturier Cassini
47 Singer k.d.
48 Pro votes
51 Classic car

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Zegers, 40; Alison Sweeney, 48; Jimmy Fallon, 50; Trisha Yearwood, 60.

Happy Birthday: Be open to learning and experiencing what different people, places and lifestyles have to offer. Educate yourself and round out your routine to incorporate broader opportunities and pursuits. Choose to grow and expand your life experiences, and you will find it easier to achieve what makes you feel vibrant and eager to live life to the fullest. Be the person you long to be, and thrive. Your numbers are 7, 15, 26, 31, 37, 42, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be receptive and try something new and exciting. Introduce yourself to groups and experts who can broaden your perspective and point you in the right direction to achieve your goals. Make relationships a priority and start conversations that help you address sensitive issues. Love is in the stars. ☼☼☼

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change you make will enhance your reputation or improve your professional pursuits. Don't wait for things to come your way; embrace every opportunity with a positive attitude and high energy, and you'll lower stress and gain momentum. Don't hold back. Display your intellect and skills. ☼☼☼

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't revisit or open doors that lead to temptation. Discipline, strength and courage will be your best friends when dealing with old wounds or obsessions. Take a deep breath, organize your thoughts and make choices that help move you in a positive direction. Focus on love and health. ☼☼☼

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may think you are doing enough to please everyone, but going above and beyond the call of duty will ensure you don't miss out on an

opportunity someone else wants just as badly as you do. Leave nothing to chance, and you'll make your dreams come true. ☼☼

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let anger set in when knowledge is your best resource. Have your facts and figures ready before you engage in a topic that can make a difference in how you move forward. A heartfelt display of honesty, integrity and understanding will win favors and support. ☼☼☼☼

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Learn as you go, and you will be satisfied with your results. Trial and error will lead to interesting connections and opportunities that are sure to encourage you to think outside the box. Choose to socialize with people who have as much to contribute as you do. ☼☼☼

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your best on display, and the response will be heartfelt. A chance to explore something foreign to you mentally, physically or emotionally will be enlightening, tweak your imagination and encourage new beginnings. Someone who challenges you will also interest you in many ways. Romance is favored. ☼☼☼

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pick up the pace and finish what you start. What you accomplish will make a difference in how others perceive you. A reliable reputation will encourage new opportunities. Join a group that addresses your concerns, and you will make a worthwhile connection. Share your thoughts. ☼☼☼

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Lose your inhibitions doing something that makes you happy. Your involvement will lead to people who share your zest for life and spark your enthusiasm to continue heading in a direction that excites you. Love and romance are on the rise. Personal gratification is within reach. ☼☼☼☼☼

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make alterations that add to your convenience. Clear the clutter and make room for something you want to pursue. Personal gains and growth are within reach if you follow your heart and do what's best for you. Refuse to let someone's negativity leave you feeling stressed or sick. ☼☼



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Financial opportunities are apparent. Broaden your horizons, socialize, network and connect with people who offer insight into possibilities that can turn one of your attributes into something prosperous. It's time for a new look, vision and direction that stimulate personal growth. Romance is in the stars. ☼☼☼



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Energy, discipline and challenges that put you where the action is will pay off and keep you out of trouble. Refuse to let temptation take over. Don't spend on indulgent pastimes that can be a risk to your health and emotional well-being. Choose wisely. ☼☼☼

Birthday Baby: You are thoughtful, intelligent and comprehensive. You are hesitant and melancholy.

Birthday Baby: You are meticulous, opportunistic and insightful. You are encouraging and intelligent.

☼: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼☼: Focus on your goals. ☼☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

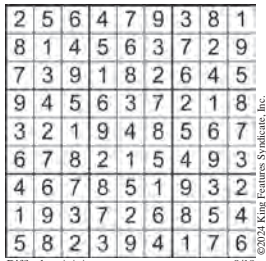
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★ 9/19
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SIMONE BILES ADDS 3 OLYMPIC MEDALS Solution: 7 letters

T L U A S R E M O S R O O L F
A U A R T I S T I C V A U L T
L N S U E M E L B M U T I L M
E G R I D W O S O A R P H I U
N E A N G I O T R A N C B K T
T Y B P A N E P I O A E A S N
N U N M O T A N I O A M L T E
E R E U O S I T C M N E A R M
T C V I U N I O U E T D N E O
S H E D G T I T N R F A C N M
I E N O E K I P I A E L E G I
S N U P N S A L T O L S A T D
N K M E D N A T S D N A H H A
O O L Y M P I C S T N I O P I
C A R T W H E E L D R O C E R

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Artistic, Audience, Balance, Beam, Cartwheel, Coach, Competition, Consistent, Flip, Floor, Half, Handstand, Lunge, Medals, Mid-Air, Momentum, Motion, National, Olympics, Pike, Podium, Points, Position, Power, Record, Salto, Signature, Skill, Soar, Somersault, Strength, Talent, Training, Tumble, Uneven Bars, Vault, Yurchenko
Yesterday's Answer: Listing
For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Snell strikes out 12 as Giants blank Orioles, 10-0

BALTIMORE (AP)—Blake Snell struck out 12 over six innings and allowed just one hit to carry the San Francisco Giants past the faltering Baltimore Orioles 10-0 on Tuesday night.

The Orioles have lost seven of nine to fall 3 1/2 games behind the first-place Yankees in the AL East, pending New York's game later Tuesday night at Seattle. Baltimore held a half-game lead on Sept. 5 before its current tailspin, during which it has been outscored 46-18.

Colton Cowser had two of the Orioles' five hits in their most lopsided shutout loss of the season.

Matt Wallner had two RBIs and Minnesota bounced back from a crushing loss in the series opener to beat Cleveland and stay locked into the final AL wild card.

Castro connected in the eighth inning, and both of Wallner's RBI singles came off Gavin Williams (3-10), who has just one win in his last seven starts.

The Twins entered with a 1 1/2-game lead over Detroit for the last playoff berth.

Lane Thomas homered for the AL Central-leading Guardians, who are closing in on the postseason. They can still clinch a spot on Wednesday.

REDS 6, BRAVES 5

CINCINNATI (AP)—Michael Harris II and Matt Olson homered for Atlanta, but the Braves blew a four-run lead in a costly loss to Cincinnati.

Pierce Johnson and Jesse Chavez struggled as Atlanta dropped its third consecutive game. The Braves (81-70) are battling the New York Mets for the third NL wild card.

Harris hit a leadoff drive in the first against Brandon Williamson. Marcell Ozuna reached on a one-out single before Olson made it 3-0 with his 26th homer.

Jorge Soler's 19th homer made it 5-1 in the fourth. But that was it for Atlanta, which went 2 for 9 with runners in scoring position and left 14 runners on base.

Spencer Steer homered for Cincinnati, and Tyler Stephenson had two hits and drove in a run. The Reds improved to 4-0 against the Braves this year.

METS 10, NATIONALS 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Pete Alonso homered and drove in five runs, Luisangel Acuña added his first major league longball to cap a huge night at the plate, and the New York Mets routed Washington to boost their chances in a close National League playoff race.

Taylor Megill (4-5) provided another terrific outing in place of injured starter Paul Blackburn, and Francisco Alvarez also went deep as the Mets improved to 10-2 against Washington this year.

New York moved two games ahead of rival Atlanta for the last NL wild card with 11 to play. A loud cheer went up in the crowd of 24,932 at Citi Field when the out-of-town scoreboard showed that Cincinnati had polished off a 6-5 comeback victory over the Braves.

Jose Iglesias had three hits and scored twice, batting leadoff with Francisco Lindor sidelined by a sore back. The 22-year-old Acuña, subbing for Lindor at shortstop, fin-



San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Blake Snell delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024, in Baltimore.

ished a triple shy of the cycle and scored three times from the No. 9 spot in his fourth big league game.

CARDINALS 3, PIRATES 1

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Lance Lynn threw six strong innings in his 100th appearance at Busch Stadium, Jordan Walker homered and St. Louis beat Pittsburgh.

Lynn (7-4) allowed one run on four hits and struck out five. Lynn is 9-0 over his last 21 starts at Busch, where he pitched for the Cardinals from 2011-17 before rejoining St. Louis this season. His last loss in the Cardinals' ballpark came on July 4, 2017, against Miami.

The Cardinals (76-75) are seven games out of the final NL wild card spot with 11 games remaining.

Bryan De La Cruz hit his 20th homer of the season, taking Lynn deep in the second inning. De La Cruz's drive to the left-center bleachers traveled 431 feet and was his second for Pittsburgh after being acquired from Miami.

PHILLIES 5, BREWERS 1

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Bryce Harper hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the sixth inning to back up the strong pitching of Zack Wheeler and Philadelphia beat Milwaukee in a matchup of division leaders.

Nick Castellanos added a solo shot and Trea Turner went 3 for 5 to help the Phillies move closer to wrapping up the NL East title while delaying the Brewers' NL Central championship celebration.

The Phillies lowered their magic number for clinching the NL East to four. The Brewers' magic number dropped to one with the Chicago Cubs 4-3 loss to the Oakland Athletics.

OAKLAND 4, CUBS 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Shea

Langeliers homered twice, including a towering solo drive that cleared the Wrigley Field bleachers in left, and Oakland beat Chicago.

Langeliers' third multihomer game of the season and No. 5 for his career upped his season total to 28, extending his career best.

Lawrence Butler also went deep for Oakland, which stopped a three-game losing streak. The skid included back-to-back losses to the MLB-worst White Sox.

Ian Happ hit two solo homers for the Cubs (77-74), who fell six games behind the New York Mets for the final NL wild card with 11 games left.

TIGERS 3, ROYALS 1, 10 INNINGS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Parker Meadows hit a broken-bat single in the 10th inning to give Detroit the lead, moments after Trey Sweeney had been given third base because of a balk, and the Tigers went on to beat Kansas City.

Tyler Holton (7-1) retired all six Royals he faced, striking out a pair in the ninth to force extra innings. Jason Foley took care of the Royals in the 10th, earning the save for the second straight night and 25th time this season.

Riley Greene added an RBI single off Lucas Erceg (2-6) later in the 10th for the Tigers, helping them to remain 1 1/2 games back of the Twins for the final AL wild-card spot.

The Royals stayed 2 1/2 games behind Baltimore for the first wild-card spot. They are 1 1/2 ahead of Minnesota.

ROCKIES 8, DIAMONDBACKS 2

DENVER (AP)—Hunter Goodman and Ezequiel Tovar hit home runs, Ryan Feltner pitched into the seventh inning for his first victory at Coors Field in two years, and

Colorado beat Arizona.

Tovar, who also homered in Monday's 3-2 win over Arizona, finished with three hits and drove in two runs. Goodman also homered Monday and connected for his 13th of the season off Blake Walston in the seventh.

Jacob Stallings and Jordan Beck hit run-scoring doubles and Brenton Doyle added a sacrifice fly for the Rockies, who had two more runs in the eighth.

Christian Walker homered and Pavin Smith had two doubles and scored a run for Arizona, which dropped into a tie with the New York Mets for the last two NL wild-card spots. San Diego holds the top spot.

RANGERS 13, BLUE JAYS 8

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Wyatt Langford homered and doubled twice, struggling Jonah Heim delivered a two-run single to break a sixth-inning tie and Texas beat Toronto.

Leody Taveras also had a homer among his three hits for the Rangers.

Heim was 1 for 34 in September before he lined a single to right field off Tommy Nance (0-2) to score Adolis García and Nathaniel Lowe, giving Texas a 9-7 lead. Heim went to the plate hitting .212 with 53 RBIs after being voted an All-Star starter last season with a career-best 95 RBIs. He added a double in the eighth ahead of Taveras' homer during a three-run inning.

Matt Festa (5-1) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings to earn the win, giving him a 5-0 record in 13 appearances with the Rangers after being granted free agency by the New York Mets on July 7.

ANGELS 5, WHITE SOX 0

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—

Rookie Eric Wagan homered for the second straight game, Griffin Canning threw six innings of three-hit ball, and the Los Angeles Angels dealt the Chicago White Sox their 116th loss with a 5-0 victory on Tuesday night.

The White Sox were shut out for the 19th time, tied for fourth-most since 2000, and finished with six hits. They had only two runners reach second base.

YANKEES 11, MARINERS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Aaron Judge drove in four runs in his first two at-bats, Juan Soto hit his 40th homer of the season and 200th of his career, and the New York Yankees moved to the cusp of clinching a playoff berth with a win over Seattle.

The Yankees can clinch at worst a wild-card spot in the American League with a victory over Seattle on Wednesday. The win in the opener of New York's six-game road trip pushed the Yankees lead in the AL East to four games over Baltimore.

Judge laced a two-run double three batters into the game and added a two-out, two-run single the next time he was up an inning later. Judge now has a league-leading 136 RBIs on the season.

Soto joined the offensive outburst in the third inning with a two-out, two-run opposite field blast off Seattle starter Bryan Woo. It's the first time in his career Soto has reached the 40-homer mark and he's now homered in all 30 parks in baseball.

Soto and Judge are the third set of Yankee teammates to each hit 40 home runs in a season joining Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig (1927, 1930, 1931), and Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris (1961).

ASTROS 4, PADRES 3, 10 INNINGS

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Grae Kessinger replaced the ejected Jose Altuve and scored on Kyle Tucker's single in the 10th inning to give the AL West-leading Houston a wild win against San Diego.

Astros reliever Héctor Neris loaded the bases with two outs in the bottom of the 10th before getting Manny Machado to ground into a force play. Machado had hit a tying two-run homer in the sixth.

Neris earned his 18th save. Kessinger started the 10th as the automatic runner in place of Altuve, who was ejected along with manager Joe Espada after a crazy scene following the top of the ninth.

RAYS 8, RED SOX 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Shane Baz allowed two runs and two hits over seven innings, Jose Siri homered and drove in four runs, and Tampa Bay beat Boston.

Baz (3-3) struck out six and walked one, and set a team mark with his fifth consecutive start of giving up three hits or fewer over five-plus innings.

Siri hit one Tampa Bay's three homers during a four-run fifth inning and extended the Rays lead to 8-3 with his three-run bloop double to left in the eighth.

Junior Caminero, Josh Lowe and Brandon Lowe also homered for the Rays. Tampa Bay trails Minnesota by six games for the final AL wild card, and would also have pass Boston, Seattle and Detroit.

Triston Casas and Romy Gonzalez homered for Boston, which is five back of the Twins with 11 games remaining.

MARLINS 11, DODGERS 9

MIAMI (AP)—Jesús Sánchez doubled twice and drove in three runs, and Miami beat Shohei Ohtani and the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers.

Ohtani struck out three times but hit his 48th home run as he tries to become the first player in MLB history to hit 50 home runs and steal 50 bases in a season. He did not steal a base for the fifth straight game and remains at 48.

Sánchez went 5 for 5, while Otto Lopez and Jake Burger homered for the Marlins.

Connor Norby became the first Marlin with four runs scored in a single game this season. He went 2 for 3 with a single, double and two walks. Kyle Stowers had an RBI triple in the fourth and added a run-scoring double in the sixth for the Marlins, who had 15 hits.

TWINS 4, GUARDIANS 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—Willi Castro hit a two-run homer,

Sean Payton bypasses opportunity to go for onside kick under new rules



DENVER (AP)—Sean Payton made the gutsiest call in Super Bowl history, ambushing Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts with a stunning onside kick coming out of halftime at Super Bowl 44 to nab the New Orleans Saints' only Lombardi Trophy.

Payton also ushered in the second chapter of his coaching career by attempting an onside kick against the Las Vegas Raiders in the Denver Broncos' opener last year.

It failed when cornerback Tremon Smith touched the football just before it had traveled the requisite 10 yards, and that may very well have been the reason Payton lost in his Denver debut. But it proved that he hadn't abandoned his risk-taking disposition when Greg Penner hired him out of Fox's broadcast studio.

The NFL's new kicking rules have taken away coaches' ability to pull a fast one on unsuspecting opponents while also making them think long and hard about trying one when desperate times call for it.

Teams can only try it in the fourth quarter now and only if they're losing. And, most importantly, they have to declare their intention to try an onside kick.

Two teams tried and failed Sunday.

Green Bay's Evan Williams recovered the Colts' onside kick with 1:47 remaining and the Packers ran out the clock in their 16-10



AP
Denver Broncos head coach Sean Payton talks to line judge Julian Mapp (10) during the first half of an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, in Denver.

victory over Indianapolis.

Shortly thereafter, Minnesota's Nick Muse recovered the 49ers' onside kick with 1:12 left and Sam Darnold kneeled out the clock in the Vikings' 23-17 win.

It appeared the Broncos would become the third team to try it when they cut the Pittsburgh Steelers' lead to 13-6 on Wil Lutz's chip-shot field goal with 1:54 remaining in Denver.

But Payton elected instead to kick off even though he only had one timeout left and rookie quarterback Bo Nix has yet to find the end zone with any of his 77 passes,

which rank as the third most in the league.

"We spent a lot of time going through it back and forth," Payton said after Nix's second interception as time expired sealed the Broncos' loss. "It was just weighing the odds versus recovering an onside kick or getting the ball back with 26 seconds.

"We chose to kick off."

The Steelers ran three times before newly signed punter Corliss Waitman, who played for the Broncos in 2022 and earned a "petty game ball" along with quarterback Russell Wilson and receiver Brandon Johnson afterward, boot-

ed a beauty of a 54-yarder to the Denver 10.

Marvin Mims Jr. returned the punt 9 yards, leaving the Broncos with 81 yards to go in just 9 seconds.

Josh Reynolds caught Nix's first down pass for 13 yards and as he was getting tackled he pitched it to Mims, who raced out of bounds at the Denver 34 with 1 second to spare.

With 66 yards to go, Nix lined up in the shotgun for one final play, stepped up and zipped his 35th pass of the game over the middle where Damontae Kazee easily intercepted it at the Steelers 40.

Shunning the onside kick was one of several eyebrow-raising calls by Payton.

Down 13-0 with 10:45 remaining, the Broncos were facing fourth-and-6 at the Pittsburgh 16 when Payton sent Lutz out for the chip-shot field goal that got the Broncos on the scoreboard but left them with the same two-score deficit.

"Time-wise we felt like we were still in a good position, looking at the clock," Payton explained.

The Broncos' biggest bugaboo has been their ineffective ground game. With scramble totals of 35 yards and 25 yards,

Nix has been Denver's leading rusher in both of its games.

With rookie Audric Estime sidelined Sunday, the Broncos promoted running back Tyler Badie from their practice squad and on his first carry he reeled off a 16-yard gain midway through the second quarter.

He never got another hand-off even though from that point on, Javonte Williams carried nine times for 10 yards, Jaleel McLaughlin ran once for 7 yards and Nix gained 5 yards on a designed run.

Asked Monday why Badie didn't get another chance after providing the Broncos with their longest run of the game and second-longest of the season behind Nix's 23-yard scramble in Seattle, Payton said, "It's about trying to find touches for the third back."

"It's much easier with a rotation of two," Payton continued. "Getting the third back involved, sometimes it's special teams, sometimes in the passing game, and it was a good run by him. It's something we're — you take notice of it, though. It's something as a play-caller, as someone who's looking at the game, I've got to be able to see that."

Vomiting victor

Baseball has its spitball and football has its ... puke pass?

At one point during Green Bay's win over the Colts, Packers coach Matt LaFleur asked quarterback Malik Willis why he didn't throw on a particular play. Willis explained that center Josh Myers had just vomited on the football.

Packers forcing more turnovers under new defensive coordinator Jeff Hafley

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—New Green Bay Packers defensive coordinator Jeff Hafley's offseason emphasis on forcing more turnovers is paying early dividends.

Green Bay's defense has had five interceptions and six total takeaways through the first two weeks of the season to lead the NFL in both categories entering Monday.

It's a dramatic change from last season, when the Packers intercepted just seven passes all season to rank next-to-last in the NFL, ahead of only the Tennessee Titans' six.

The Packers (1-1) say they're having fun playing in Hafley's system.

"I've been saying this since the offseason, we get to play with vision on the quarterback, and I love doing that, especially," Packers safety Xavier McKinney said after a 16-10 victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday. "And I know we do as a defense because we're able to play with

our instincts, we're able to call out different things, see different things and be able to just trust in what we see and go out there and make a play."

The Packers signed McKinney from the New York Giants during the offseason to upgrade a safety position that was one of the team's biggest weaknesses. He has responded by picking off a pass in each of Green Bay's first two games. Last year, nobody on the Packers intercepted more than two passes all season.

McKinney had the first of Green Bay's three interceptions Sunday when linebacker Quay Walker pressured Anthony Richardson into over-throwing a pass intended for Alec Pierce. Eric Wilson picked off a pass early in the fourth quarter and Evan Williams intercepted Richardson's desperation pass attempt on the game's final play.

Green Bay's opportunistic defense and dynamic rushing attack helped the Packers win

without starting quarterback Jordan Love, who injured his left medial collateral ligament in a season-opening 34-29 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles. The Packers rushed for 261 yards—including 237 in the first half—while Malik Willis stepped in for Love and avoided making the types of mistakes that proved so costly for Richardson.

Packers coach Matt LaFleur had no update Monday on Love's potential availability for their upcoming game at Tennessee.

"I know he's doing everything he can," LaFleur said. "If he's ready, he'll be ready. And if he's not, then we'll proceed with Malik."

Green Bay's defense had two interceptions and a fumble recovery against Philadelphia, but couldn't slow down the Eagles whenever they weren't turning the ball over. The Packers' defense was much more effective Sunday and managed to force turnovers at

key moments.

The interceptions by McKinney and Wilson both came after Indianapolis had reached the Green Bay 40-yard line. Williams' interception sealed the victory.

"Guys are just playing hard," said Wilson, who also forced a fumble. "I think when we do that, when everybody plays together, it's a beautiful thing to see."

What's working

The Packers have an NFL-leading 424 yards rushing through the first two weeks of the season entering Monday. Josh Jacobs ranks third in the league entering Monday with 235 yards rushing. ... Green Bay's plus-4 turnover margin ranks second in the league entering Monday, behind only Pittsburgh's plus-5. ... Packers opponents are converting just 26% of their third down conversion attempts (6 of 23).

What needs work
Jacobs' fumble into the end

zone continued Green Bay's red zone struggles. The Packers have scored touchdowns in only two of their seven trips inside an opponent's 20-yard line. Brayden Narveson already has eight field-goal attempts.

Stock up

Daniel Whelan had all three of his attempts Sunday downed inside the 20. His net punting average was 46.3 yards. ... The entire starting line of LT Rasheed Walker, LG Elgton Jenkins, C Josh Myers, RG Sean Rhyan and RT Zach Tom deserves credit for helping Green Bay gain 261 yards rushing, including 237 in the first half. Green Bay had its highest single-game rushing total since gaining 262 yards on the ground in a 31-3 victory over the Denver Broncos on Dec. 28, 2003. ... Willis delivered the best performance of his career so far by going 12 of 14 through the air with his first career touchdown pass and no turnovers.

Stock down

Narveson has missed a field-goal attempt in each of his first two games. ... After getting a sack in Green Bay's season opener, DL Rashan Gary had no sacks or tackles Sunday.

Injuries

Jordan Morgan left with a shoulder injury. RB Mar-Shawn Lloyd said Monday he sprained his ankle.

Key numbers

800: The Packers' win Sunday made them the first NFL team to earn 800 regular-season victories.

Next steps

The Packers face Willis' former team Sunday when they visit the Tennessee Titans. Green Bay acquired Willis from Tennessee for a 2025 seventh-round pick after he was unable to beat out Mason Rudolph for the Titans' backup quarterback job.

WNBA playoff seeds mostly still undecided as league enters final week of season

NEW YORK (AP)—Caitlin Clark and the Indiana Fever have clinched the sixth seed in the WNBA playoffs.

They won't know where they're headed for the opening round until at least Tuesday as six of the other seven postseason spots are still undecided. Diana Taurasi and Phoenix are locked into the seventh seed.

The WNBA regular season comes down to the final four days this week with all 12 teams playing Thursday to close it out. The post-season begins Sunday.

The Fever most likely will be headed to Connecticut, which right now sits as the No. 3 seed. Clark's



Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark (22) makes a behind the back pass in front of Dallas Wings guard Sevgi Uzun (1) in the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024.

WNBA career got started against Connecticut back in May. Clark had an incredible season, setting both the WNBA single-season assist record as well as the league's rookie scoring record. She broke the scoring mark on Sunday when she had a season-high 35 points, passing Seimone Augustus' 744 set in 2006. Clark has 761 points on the season.

The Sun trail the Minnesota Lynx for the No. 2 seed by two games with two left. The two teams play each other on Tuesday in Connecticut. The Sun do own the tiebreaker between the two teams.

Minnesota could still earn the top overall seed after Sunday's win over New York. The Lynx trail the

Liberty by two games and own the tiebreaker. New York would have to lose at Washington on Tuesday and at home to Atlanta on Thursday as well as Minnesota win its final two games for that to happen.

Who the eventual No. 1 team plays is also still up in the air. Chicago, Washington and Atlanta all sit tied in eighth right now for the final playoff spot. The Dream stayed alive by beating the Mystics in overtime Sunday. Chicago had a chance to go a leg up on the other two teams, but lost at home to Phoenix.

Chicago plays at Atlanta on Tuesday with the winner having the upper hand for the final playoff spot. Washington hosts league-leading New York on Tuesday and Clark and the Fever on Thursday. Chicago visits Connecticut that same night.

Las Vegas is currently the four seed. The two-time defending champions could move up to third with two wins and also two losses by Connecticut. Assuming that doesn't happen, they'll face Seattle. The Aces have a one-game lead on the Storm and the two teams play each other on Tuesday in Seattle.

California-born Goorjian leaves as head coach of Australian men's basketball team

SYDNEY (AP)—California-born Brian Goorjian is leaving as head coach of the Australian men's basketball team after four Olympics and two stints in charge of the Boomers.

Basketball Australia said in a statement Wednesday that Goorjian would continue his coaching career with the Sydney Kings in the National Basketball League.

In his first tenure as national coach from 2001 to 2008, Goorjian guided the Boomers to the 2004 Athens and 2008 Beijing Olympics, a World Cup in 2006 in Japan and a gold Commonwealth Games medal in Melbourne the same year.

Returning to the role in 2020, Goorjian led the Boomers to their historic first Olympic medal in Tokyo—a bronze—and then a fourth Games in Paris this year, where Aus-

tralia lost in the quarterfinals in overtime to Serbia.

Andrew Gaze, a former Boomer, NBL and NBA player and Seton Hall star in U.S. college basketball, said Goorjian's impact on the sport extended beyond his role as national coach.

"Brian's legacy extends to players that have represented Australia even when he wasn't coaching the national team, his legacy includes the development of the game as a player, a coach and an advocate," Gaze said.

"It's important to recognize his contribution to the Australian scene as a coach but I think that is only part of the complete story of Brian Goorjian and the significant impact he's had on the overall game and the contribution he's made to the lives of many."

Luc Longley, an Australian and former Boomer who won three



Australia head coach Brian Goorjian yells to his team in a men's basketball game against Spain at the 2024 Summer Olympics, July 27, 2024, in Villeneuve-d'Ascq, France.

straight NBA titles with the Chicago Bulls, said Goorjian had the ability to remain current and connected across generations.

"He's an American who learned to speak the Australian basketball

language then went through several generations of change," Longley said. "And now he's the go-to-go guy who can communicate with a new generation of young Aussies playing in the NBA."

BRILLIANT

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The boys garnered 37 points for first place; Grace Christian Academy collected 46; Agape Christian School had 58; San Vicente Elementary School scored 62; Mount Carmel School had 78 points; Garapan Elementary School came away with 92 points; Saipan International School

had 106 points; Saipan Community School was at 113 points; and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School scored 153 points.

In the girls division, BSS had 25 points; MCS was second at 40; SIS was at 55; William S. Reyes Elementary School had 75 points; and GCA collected 82 points.

The fastest kid on the course was still GCA's Beau Bauer with a time of 7:50. SIS' Gabriel Walsh was second

in the boys division with 8:13, and third was O'marion Reyes at 8:35.

Lovel Spaeth of BSS was still the speediest girl with a time of 7:59; second was SIS' Kaylen Tafinger at 8:14; and Angela You of ACS was third at 8:47.

Ten-year-old Bauer said after the race, "It was a good course. I liked how it was through a jungle. The toughest part was the sand part because it was slippery and there's no traction."

On his two first-place finishes in a row, he said, "I feel good. I train a lot. I also play soccer and I have a soccer game today (last Saturday) too."

The next qualifier is the SIS Gecko 5000 at Banzai Cliff is on Sept. 28; the ISA Invitational with the location to be determined is on Oct. 5; and the championship is set for Oct. 12 at the Saipan Country Club at Saipan Vegas.

FINALS

From page 16

minute by Beatrice Gross. From there, both teams' tactics and attacks came up empty as the match went on without another goal.

A few quick attempts at the net by Gross later in the match nearly put SIS up by a few more goals, but HMS keeper Hayven Moteisou stood her ground and denied them entry to give them a fighting chance.

Then, Esakova redeemed herself in the 43rd minute with a goal after two attempts at the net to knot it all up, 1-1. Neither team could draw up the winning goal as time expired and the first match of the season

ended in a tie.

HMS assistant coach Connie Camacho said that their team this year consists of younger players, including Moteisou. She said with their first game, "since we matched up with the runner-up SIS, we have a good chance of competing again just like last year."

She added, "We have some returnees but they weren't starters from last year, and we have a few 6th graders. We also have some inexperienced players, but they can run—they have speed and they can defend. They just need to be more familiarized with the rules of soccer."

With Esakova and Moteisou on the team are Anica Aquino, Grace Arkoh, Vanessa Bayog, Elyza Brillo, Angel Calayag, Aubyguel

Castro, Althea De Belen, Alyza De Belen, Samantha Escarcha, Franchesca Ferrer, Princess Gariguez, and Hannah Li.

The head coach is Dominic Tudela, who also coaches HMS' junior varsity basketball team.

In the other game that day, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Napu Riders took down Chacha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus, 3-1.

Shy'Annalie Mallens scored FMS' two goals by the 24th minute, while Rica Taitano got COVMS on the board with a goal in the 28th. However, the Napu Riders' Phangwadee Claridades made a sure-fire goal in the 33th minute as COVMS could not close the gap and lost, 1-3.

INT'L DAY

From page 16

students and other stakeholders.

FISU Oceania has 12 member countries known as National University Sport Federations.

Each federation differs in size, structure and resources, which include the NMI, American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa.

For more information on the 5th Annual International Day of University Sport, visit their Facebook page at Northern Mariana Islands College Sport or their Instagram page at nmi_collegesports.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	88	63	.583	—
Baltimore	84	67	.556	4
Boston	75	76	.497	13
Tampa Bay	74	77	.490	14
Toronto	72	79	.477	16
Central Division				
Cleveland	87	65	.572	—
Kansas City	82	70	.539	5
Minnesota	80	71	.530	6½
Detroit	79	73	.520	8
Chicago	36	116	.237	51
West Division				
Houston	82	69	.543	—
Seattle	77	74	.510	5
Texas	72	79	.477	10
Oakland	66	86	.434	16½
Los Angeles	61	90	.404	21
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	91	60	.603	—
New York	83	68	.550	8
Atlanta	81	70	.536	10
Washington	68	83	.450	23
Miami	56	95	.371	35
Central Division				
Milwaukee	87	64	.576	—
Chicago	77	74	.510	10
St. Louis	76	75	.503	11
Cincinnati	74	78	.487	13½
Pittsburgh	71	80	.470	16
West Division				
Los Angeles	89	62	.589	—
San Diego	86	66	.566	3½
Arizona	83	68	.550	6
San Francisco	73	78	.483	16
Colorado	59	93	.388	30½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Snell strikes out 12 as Giants blank Orioles, 10-0

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Saipan Tribune Sports

WNBA playoff seeds mostly still undecided as league enters final week of season

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Finals rematch ends in 1-1 draw

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

It was a thrilling start to the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Girls Middle School Interscholastic Soccer League as championship rivals—defending champions Hopwood Middle School Hilitais and Saipan International School Geckos—locked horns last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Despite a rocky start for the Hilitais, they caught a break toward the end for a



LEIGH GASES
Hopwood Middle School's Elyza Brillo, left, struggles for possession against a Saipan International School player during the season opener of the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Girls Middle School Interscholastic Soccer League last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



1-1 draw.

SIS took advantage of a penalty kick from a hand-ball blunder in the box by HMS' Alina Esakova, and made it 1-0 in the 17th

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LEIGH GASES
Hopwood Middle School keeper Hayven Moteisou sets up the play during their season opener against rival Saipan International School in the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Girls Middle School Interscholastic Soccer League last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Brilliant, again in x-country

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



Once again, Brilliant Star Montessori School's cross-country runners shone brighter than the nonexistent Saturday morning sun in the second PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifier-Run Saipan Invitational at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.



LEIGH GASES
Brilliant Star Montessori School's Lovel Spaeth runs the last few meters of the second PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifier-Run Saipan Invitational at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.

tional at the American Memorial Park.

In the 1-mile course around the AMP softball field, onto the loop road, then toward the beach, through the wooded area, then back to the path, they topped the boys and girls elementary school division, just like they did in the first qualifier at the CPA Airport Field last Sept 7.

See **BRILLIANT** on Page 15



LEIGH GASES
Grace Christian Academy's Beau Bauer sprints to the finish line first overall again in the second PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifier-Run Saipan Invitational at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.



LEIGH GASES
Elementary school division cross-country runners let out a synchronized yell at the start line before the start of their race in the second PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifier-Run Saipan Invitational at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.



LEIGH GASES
Elementary school division cross-country runners chug full steam ahead out of the starting line during the second PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifier-Run Saipan Invitational at the American Memorial Park last Saturday.

Int'l Day of University Sport tomorrow



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Jershwin Angeles gestures to a little boy kicking a soccer ball during last year's International Day of University Sport hosted by Northern Mariana Islands College Sports at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Kickstart your weekend on a healthy note by getting your body moving in the 5th Annual International Day of University Sport hosted by Northern Mariana Islands College Sports tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 20 at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field from 4pm to 7pm.

NMICS will be joined by sports organizations such as NMC Volleyball Club, the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, and Ultimate Frisbee.

"Our IDUS celebration will highlight the importance of an active lifestyle and encourage everyone to bring their families and friends to have fun and play sports. Participants will also

get the chance to win raffle prizes such as sporting equipment, Yeti bottles, go kart gift certificates, and many more," said Angela Bernal, the event's organizer.

When asked if the weather will be an issue, she said, "Our event will push through rain or shine. However, if extreme weather such as strong winds and heavy rain occurs on the day of the event, we will notify the community of any changes."

The annual celebration, which started in 2016, is the brainchild of FISU Oceania and endorsed by the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization to promote sports, health and wellness, and community engagement among college

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